

# 'BAMA

INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

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APRIL, 2001  
VOLUME 23,  
NUMBER 4

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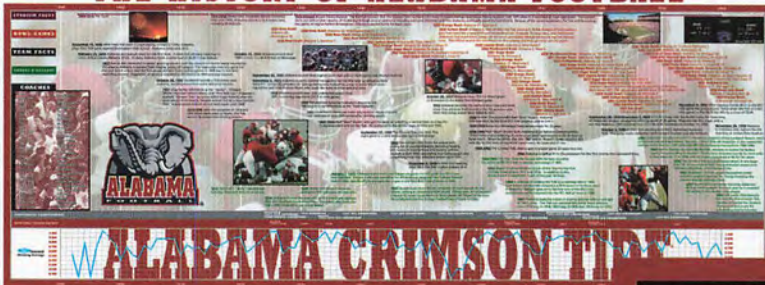
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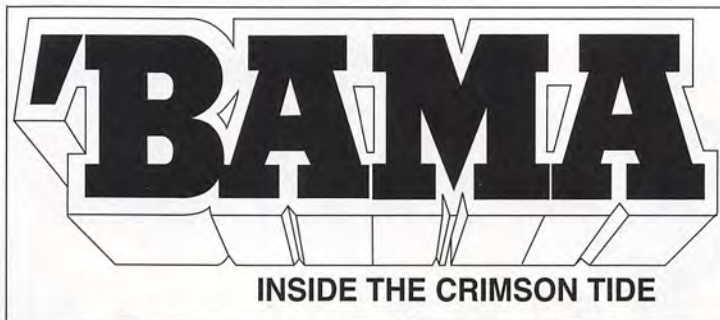


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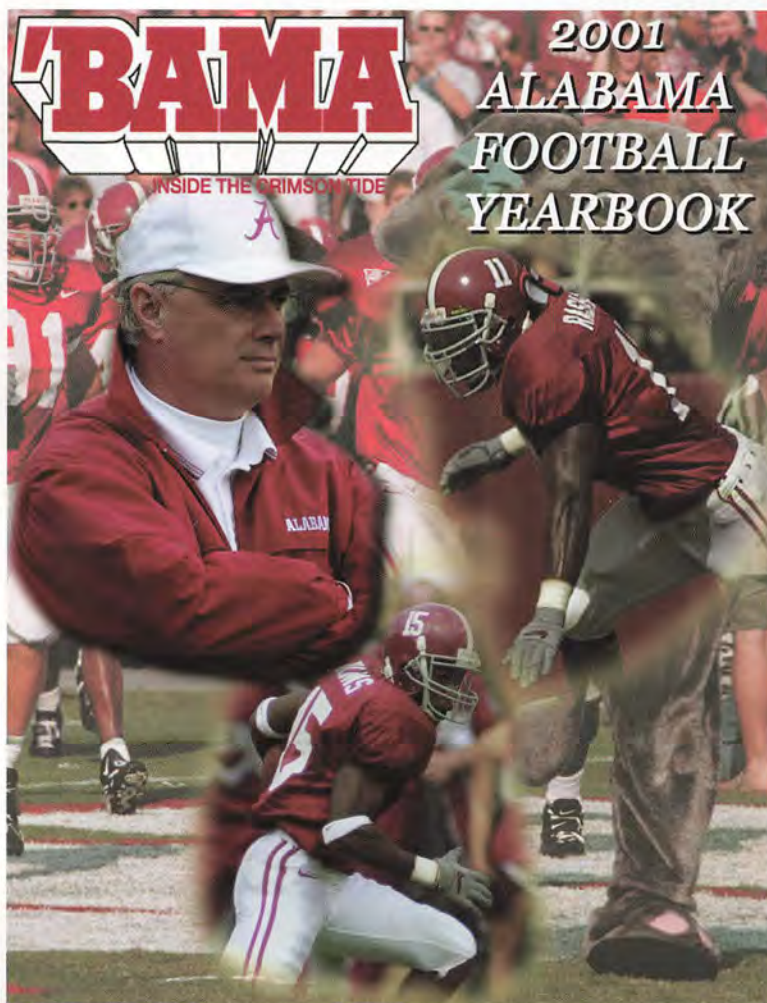
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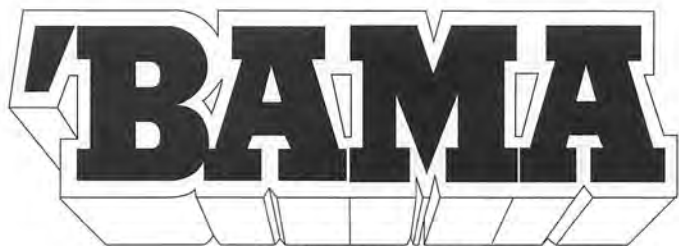
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INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

APRIL, 2001

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Barry Fikes Photo



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# Tide On Road To Improvement

by Kirk McNair

It may be a while before  
quarterback race settled

Throughout Alabama's spring football practice, Head Coach Dennis Franchione has carefully couched his evaluations, providing encouragement to his players, but urging restraint on the expectations of Crimson Tide followers. There are aspects of work by Crimson Tide players that please Franchione, but no matter how good something may be it's never as good as he would want it.

As might be expected, Franchione has been more enthusiastic about intentions than he has about results. He said, "The most pleasing aspect of the first half of spring practice is the attitude and enthusiasm and effort by the players. Their acceptance of our staff and the changes has been wonderful." After just a few weeks of work together, it would be difficult for the Tide players to totally satisfy Franchione. He said, "I always have a high standard. I see the up side to each player, and I push him to reach it."

Still, as Alabama reached the middle of practice, completing the seventh of its 15 work days as The University had spring break March 24-April 1, there was reason for optimism. That final practice of the first half of spring training was the Tide's first full scrimmage. When a team has a scrimmage, it is unlikely that the head coach is going to be completely satisfied, because an offensive success is offset by a defensive deficiency, or vice versa. Alabama will have another scrimmage on April 7 and will conclude spring practice with the A-Day Game at Bryant-Denny Stadium at 2 p.m. CDT Saturday, April 14.

Franchione said, "We've had a good first seven days, but we've got a long way to go. I feel very good about our players, but we've got a lot of work to do. The offense has a ways to go. It's understandable after only seven practices, but it's disappointing."

After the scrimmage, Franchione said, "I saw some flashes of good play, but we had poor consistency. The learning curve is steeper on offense, and it showed."

After he had viewed tapes of the scrimmage, Franchione said, "The offense was obviously inconsistent and we're a long ways away from where we want to be. They were

stopped too many times by mistakes and those negatives took away any of the positives they may have accomplished."

The first scrimmage served several purposes. While execution may have been flawed, Franchione said, "I appreciated the intensity, the focus, the enthusiasm, and the physicalness, the toughness. We had 125 snaps and they came to play. They worked hard at it. The players have a good attitude. They want to do it and they are working hard at everything we've asked them to do."

The scrimmage, along with the six practices which preceded it, will give the team something of a reading. The Bama staff will determine a depth chart which will tell the players where they are, Franchione said. While he said the staff will continue to coach all the players, he said, "Competition makes us all better and when the players see where they are on the depth chart, they will know what they need to do."

He also noted that, "We can look at the tapes and see negatives. But we can also see positives, and that's what we need to build on. We've got to combine the mental with the ability to do it physically, and we're not always having that with 11 against 11."

Franchione said the defense was clearly the bright spot of the scrimmage. "After seven practices, I think we can get to where we need to be [defensively]."

He added, "After watching the tape, I felt the effort was there. The defense did a lot of good things, particularly the secondary which got a hand on seven passes and caught five. And I thought they (defense) did better in goalline situations than we had seen in practices prior to the scrimmage."

Although Franchione considers the spring work to be the first of practices in anticipation of the opening game, this first spring under the new head coach is different than subsequent ones will be because the players are having to learn a new system and the coaches are having to learn almost everything about the players.

It is not unreasonable to expect Alabama to show improvement, particularly on offense, in the second half of spring practice. In that final scrimmage the Tide offense did not score a touchdown (other than in some goalline drills), had eight fumbles, six interceptions, and allowed nine sacks (although the "sacks" were a bit tainted since quarterbacks are not subject to contact and a touch was enough to constitute a sack). The Tide used a large number of players in that scrimmage. Indeed, as promised by Franchione, every player on the field has been given an opportunity to show his stuff

in the first half of spring practice. That policy won't preclude every player being coached the remainder of the spring, but Bama coaches now have a better idea of the potential play-makers.

The most-discussed position, as is frequently the case, is quarterback. In the scrimmage the Tide used six quarterbacks, including three walk-ons. Franchione noted that in that scrimmage the quarterbacks were typical of the offense: "one good play, then one bad play; no consistency. We shot ourselves in the foot too much."

Franchione said no one has taken the lead at quarterback, which was his pre-scrimmage prediction. He said, "I have a feeling that position is not going to be so well-defined. I think they'll be pretty close, even though I'd like to see some separation." After the scrimmage he said he would prefer to have a clear number one quarterback, but added, "That's the beauty of a multiple offense: you can adapt to different players, including quarterbacks, and play to their strengths."

The Alabama offense is not as multiple as it will be, and not as multiple as Franchione had hoped it would be by the time of spring break. "We had hoped to have all the offense installed," he said, "but we weren't able to do that. There's no sense giving them so much they have brain paralysis and can't execute." He estimated that about 60 per cent of the offense had been installed in the first two weeks and said there was a possibility not much more would be added in the final two weeks.

That is part of the problem at quarterback. "We gave them much more to learn than any other position, and they need more reps," Franchione said.

Franchione pointed out that the squad had been broken into three groups on offense and defense. They are known simply enough as Ones, Twos and Threes. Prior to spring work he said that Andrew Zow and Tyler Watts would quarterback the first group, Brodie Croyle and Jonathan Richey the second group, and "the others" the third group. "The others" have been Scott Crouch and Mark Miller.

It's reasonable to expect some of the quarterbacks to get less work in the second half of spring training. That's because there aren't enough players at other positions, particularly line spots, to give all quarterbacks the number of repetitions needed to make the offense second nature.

That's true even in the organized Franchione style of practice in which every moment is utilized to give every player meaningful practice time.



The scholarship quarterbacks are upcoming senior Zow, junior Watts, and Croyle, who entered The University in January. Franchione has noted that Croyle "doesn't look like a true freshman," and has also pointed out that since the offensive system is new that Zow and Watts are the equivalent of freshmen. Odds are one of those three will be the starter when Alabama opens the season against UCLA on September 1.

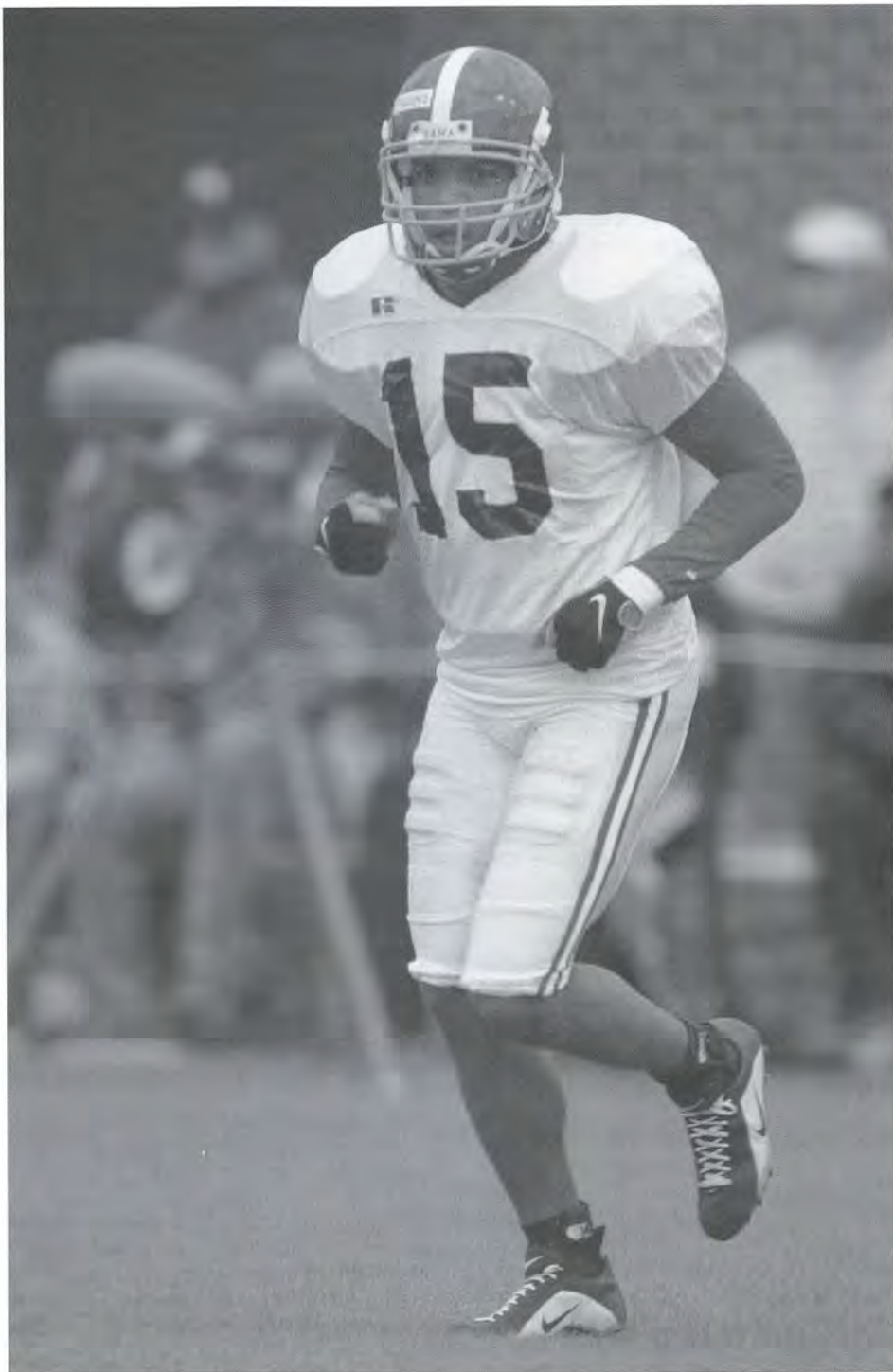
Will the starting quarterback be established during spring practice? There's no law that says he must be, and best guess is that the decision will be made in the 29 practices in August.

Zow appeared to be having the most difficulty with the offense. In early practices he was sharp enough, but seemed to regress, or at least make less progress, in the second week. In the scrimmage he completed only six of 11 passes for only 32 yards and suffered six interceptions. Watts seemed to start slowly in the spring, but in the second week seemed to be coming into his own. He was the most effective quarterback in the scrimmage, completing eight of 13 passes for 78 yards, but also suffering an interception.

From day one, Croyle has appeared to be the best passer of the three, possessing an arm almost as strong as Zow's and proving more accurate than either Zow or Watts. Croyle was not good during the scrimmage, completing only two of eight passes for only 12 yards with two interceptions, but he had some good long throws that were not rewarded (one dropped, one completed to a receiver just out of bounds). Even though the system is new to all the quarterbacks, Croyle's inexperience at the college level, lack of competition at all last fall as he was injured, and a relatively low level of prep competition when he did play puts him at a disadvantage.

**T**wo positions of particular interest to the Bama staff are tight end and fullback. Terry Jones appears to be on the road back to full recovery from his knee injury of last fall and will be Alabama's number one tight end. However, additional bodies are needed at the position. In fact, in answer to a question about which incoming freshmen might help Alabama next year, Franchione cited Clint Johnston because of the need for depth at tight end.

In the past Theo Sanders has been given the opportunity to assist at both fullback and tight end. This spring he's working as the number two tight end behind Jones. While Sanders gives good effort and does some things well, there is no doubt that there is a big fall-off from number one to number two. Sanders is an adequate receiver, but the Tide may need more blocking



Star wide receiver Freddie Milons has performed in the first half of spring practice like he will be one of the play-makers that Head Coach Dennis Franchione is looking for. Barry Fikes Photo

oomph from its second tight end, both for back-up and in double tight formation.

One of the surprise walk-ons of the spring is a 6-3, 231-pound freshman tight end candidate, Nick Signaigo, whose father played football at Mississippi.

The fullback mystery would be solved if there were assurances of Marvin Brown's academic standing. Brown, who missed last

spring and fall because of schoolwork, was basically held out of the scrimmage, perhaps because his skills are known, but maybe an indication he is in jeopardy of not being a part of the squad in the fall. Brown is Bama's best back, a powerful runner and deft pass receiver, and possesses the explosive strength needed to be an effective blocker.

Without Brown, the position falls to a



competition between two men who were linebackers last fall. Soph Donnie Lowe has been a very pleasant experiment, moving from middle linebacker to fullback. Rare has been the practice that Franchione did not compliment Lowe. Senior Adam Cox came to Alabama as a running back and is still getting an occasional practice snap at tailback, but most of his work is at fullback. He has been a tough inside runner in spring drills.

Some might consider tailback to be a problem area, but Franchione has indicated satisfaction with the candidates except in the area of catching the football, both passes and pitchouts. Indeed, the pitchout looks to be a staple of the new Alabama offensive system. (Bama has also worked on the option, but Franchione says that will be only a small part of the offense in the fall.)

The most impressive tailback has been Santonio Beard, who missed all of last season with a shoulder injury. Franchione said Beard's shoulder is stronger, but indicated more surgery may be necessary. Otherwise, Franchione would like to see more fundamental soundness from Beard. "He runs every play like he's got to make 150 yards, darting this way and that," Franchione said. "Sometimes he just needs to run straight ahead and make four yards. We want him to make the yards we need and the big plays will take care of themselves." Still, the coach has seen "flashes" from Beard, a player the coach called "rough around the edges."

Franchione has called Ahmaad Galloway, who started at tailback much of last year, a "good" player. And he thinks that Brandon Miree has shown the most improvement. Miree's weakness continues to be an inability to catch the football on a consistent basis.

Alabama has plenty of men who do catch the football well. The receiver corps is definitely a Crimson Tide strength, and the cast of leading characters is familiar. Among the likely play-makers are senior Freddie Milons and junior Antonio Carter. Milons, particularly, has performed like a player who wants his next stop to be in the National Football League.

Last year the Tide used a large number of wide receivers. Franchione would appear to be more likely to use fewer players and have the best ones on the field longer. Still, some other wide receivers will see considerable playing time. Jason McAddley has the speed to be a play-maker. Triandos Luke, Sam Collins, Dre Fulgham and Derrick Woods have been very solid. Michael James and Tarry Givens appear to have made strides.

Franchione has said that he expects the offensive line to be good, although there is a lack of experience. In the



This spring, defensive end Kindal Moorehead has showed no ill effects of the injury to his Achilles tendon that sidelined him throughout the 2000 season.  
Barry Fikes Photo

Mike DuBose system, few back-up offensive linemen got playing time. Thus, when three seniors finished their careers last year, there weren't starters-in-waiting. The goal is to develop both quality and quantity in the offensive line.

There's a good battle going on at the critical center position. Alonzo Ephraim was the nominal back-up man last year, but he's facing stiff competition from Evan Mathis. Additionally, back-up guard Marico Portis figures in at the position. Franchione would like his third center to be a back-up guard, but he cautions against penciling in Portis for that role for an unusual reason: he's not ruling Portis out as the starting center.

There's new nomenclature among the guards and tackles, which now play on strong and weak sides rather than as left and right. Dante Ellington, who has started at both left and right tackle in the past, was mistakenly listed as a guard prior to the start of spring practice. He is the top man at strong tackle. Newcomer Atlas Herrion, a junior college transfer, has been an important addition to the offensive line and is number one on the weakside, the "quick tackle" in Alabama terminology. Wesley Britt looks like a very strong back-up to Ellington,

while Lannis Baxley appears to be improved and is behind Herrion.

Strongside guard doesn't lack for girth with Dennis Alexander (6-6, 339), Bart Raulston (6-9, 347) and Keith Stephens (6-2, 358) the competitors. Justin Smiley could be excellent at quickside guard, but he didn't help himself when he got in a scuffle with safety Reggie Myles in the scrimmage. Franchione said, "We have to learn to control those emotions, because fighting leads to a half game suspension in the next game, and we can't afford that."

Alabama's defense returns more established players than does the offense, but there are still holes to fill and areas where depth may depend on some shifting of personnel.

Bama's defense was sabotaged to great extent by critical injuries in the line last year. A healthy Kindal Moorehead, who missed all of 2000 with a torn Achilles tendon, and Kenny King, who was hampered through most of the year, with shoulder problems, would make a big difference.

Moorehead is at left end, where Nautyn McKay-Loescher is his back-up, while King is at right end, ahead of Aries Monroe and



Antwan Odom. There's a suspicion that Odom would rank higher on the depth chart except for concerns about his academic situation.

David Daniel, the former walk-on, may be listed number one at nose tackle on the official depth chart, but strongman Anthony Bryant looks like the man for Bama's middle. Jarret Johnson, who missed the final three practices with a slight concussion, is ahead of Derek Sanders at the other tackle spot.

Alabama is likely to have a very strong starting defensive line, but depth is a problem even with Moorehead and King being healthy. And it's not out of the question that a player like Moorehead might be shifted to tackle, at least in some situations or for depth purposes.

Alabama's new alignment on defense is something between a 4-3 and a 4-2-5 because of the use of a rover, a hybrid-type who is half linebacker, half strong safety. Defensive Coordinator Carl Torbush has a couple of impressive performers in that rover spot in Brooks Daniels and Jason Rawls. Daniels was the leading tackler in the scrimmage with eight stops.

The true linebackers are designated middle and strongside. Victor Ellis inherited the middle spot last year after Marvin Constant was unable to come back from his late 1999 knee injury. Those are the two candidates for the spot this spring. Constant has done yeoman work in trying to return from the injury, but that may not be enough.

Last year Saleem Rasheed and Darius

## A-Day Events

The annual A-Day game will be held on April 14 with kickoff scheduled for 2 p.m. CDT at Bryant-Denny Stadium. There will be no admission charged. Only the west side of the stadium will be open, including the U1 and U2 levels.

Here is a complete schedule of A-Day weekend activities (all times CDT):

### Friday, April 13

12:30 p.m. A-Club Golf Tournament - Ol' Colony Golf Club

### Saturday, April 14

9-11 a.m. Fan Day, Coleman Coliseum

10 a.m. A-Club Meeting, Scholarship Room, Bryant-Denny Stadium

11:30 a.m. Tide Pride Luncheon, Main Floor, Coleman Coliseum

1 p.m. Walk-of-Fame Ceremonies, Denny Chimes

2 p.m. Kickoff, A-Day Game

Gilbert were the outside linebackers. This spring they are stacked at the strongside position with Rasheed in the lead. Indeed, Gilbert may have to step it up in the second half of the spring to stay ahead of Cornelius Wortham.

There has been a great deal of experimentation at the cornerback spots. Gerald Dixon has been a starter at right cornerback for much of the past two seasons. However, he may end up at left cornerback this year. Thurman Ward and Hirschel Bolden seem most likely to join Dixon as a starter, but

Carlos Andrews and Ray Hudson are also contending.

Reggie Myles has been an enthusiastic performer at safety, where his top competition appears to be coming from walk-on Wayne Bacon. Connie Brown was expected to be a leading candidate at safety, but he has never ranked high on the depth chart, perhaps an indication of an off-the-field situation. Brown is now working behind Shontua Ray, who has done a good job of picking up the assignments of his new strong safety position.

**F**ranchione doesn't want to count on incoming players for anything. As a result, Alabama is doing more work on the kicking game than has been usual at Bama in the past.

The actual kicking has been good, particularly punting by Lane Bearden and Matt Sanders and place-kicking by Neal Thomas.

There was no punting in the scrimmage, but after missing his first field goal attempt, Thomas hit his next four, including a long of 42 yards. Danny Haynes was good on two of three with a long of 37 yards.

Bama has also begun work on kickoff coverage and other aspects of special teams play.

Mark Tommerdahl, who is tight ends coach, is also coordinator of special teams. Alabama kicking teams are very well organized with each aspect of the special teams having an assistant coach who serves as the head coach of that area and four assistant coaches assisting with it.

## Guess At A Depth Chart Midway Through Spring

Alabama Head Coach Dennis Franchione elected to wait until the resumption of spring football practice on April 2 before releasing an official depth chart. Therefore, this is not the official depth chart, merely a reasonable guess based on observation of current Crimson Tide players in practices this spring. Although there has been work on various aspects of the kicking game, other than actual kickers-punters and placekickers—we have not attempted to identify other members of special teams. Note that because Bama sometimes uses three wide receivers that this depth chart includes 12 positions on offense.

### Offense

**SPLIT END:** Jason McAddley, Triandos Luke, Tarry Givens, Brandon Greer

**QUICK TACKLE:** Atlas Herrion, Lannis Baxley, Shaun Williams

**QUICK GUARD:** Justin Smiley, Marico Portis, Danny Martz, Eric Boschung

**CENTER:** Alonzo Ephraim, Evan Mathis, Patrick Hollingsworth

**STRONG GUARD:** Dennis Alexander, Bart Raulston, Keith Stephens

**STRONG TACKLE:** Dante Ellington, Wesley Britt, Matt Lomax

**TIGHT END:** Terry Jones, Theo Sanders, Nick Signaigo, Casey

Gilbert, David Cavan, Patrick Tate, Jeremy Drummond

**QUARTERBACK:** Tyler Watts, Andrew Zow, Brodie Croyle, Jonathan Richey, Scott Crouch, Mark Miller

**TAILBACK:** Antonio Beard, Ahmaad Galloway, Brandon Miree, Josh Smith, Clifton Carter

**FULLBACK:** Donnie Lowe, Marvin Brown, Adam Cox, Nathan Cox

**FLANKER:** Freddie Milons, Sam Collins, Michael James, Joel Babb, Lance Taylor

**SLOT BACK:** Antonio Carter, Dre Fulgham, Derrick Woods, Dennis Bonga

### Defense

**LEFT END:** Kindal Moorehead, Nautyn McKay-Loesch, Shawn Oglesby

**NOSE TACKLE:** Anthony Bryant, David Daniel, Allen Hollie, Rhodie Larson

**TACKLE:** Jarrett Johnson, Derek Sanders, Gerard Clark, David Voyles

**RIGHT END:** Kenny King, Aries Monroe, Antwan Odom,

**STRONGSIDE LINEBACKER:** Saleem Rasheed, Darius Gilbert, Cornelius Wortham, Brandon Dean

**MIDDLE LINEBACKER:** Victor Ellis, Marvin Constant, Matt Summerford

**ROVER:** Brooks Daniels, Jason Rawls, Brad Biehl, P.J. Fletcher

**LEFT CORNERBACK:** Gerald Dixon, Carlos Andrews, Roberto McBride, Corey Ferguson, Richard Randolph

**RIGHT CORNERBACK:** Thurman Ward, Hirschel Bolden, Ray Hudson, Ty Tyrus

**STRONG SAFETY:** Shontua Ray, Connie Brown, Charles Jones

**FREE SAFETY:** Reggie Myles, Wayne Bacon, Chris James, Tyler Harris

### Special Teams

**PLACEKICKER:** Neal Thomas, Danny Haynes, Gabe Giardina, Alex Fox, Brian Bostick

**PUNTER:** Lane Bearden, Matt Sanders, Robert Freeland, Michael Ziifle



# No One Knows Where It's Going

by Kirk McNair

## NCAA looks into football under Mike DuBose

There is nothing "Ha Ha" funny about the NCAA investigation into Alabama football from a Crimson Tide standpoint, but there are curious things. As a part of the investigation, the NCAA mandates "that all those involved in the investigation refrain from discussion or comment that might impede the continuing investigation." That is taken by everyone involved to mean that there can be no discussion or comment, leaving the void of factual information to be filled by rumor and speculation. Perhaps that is why some newspapers "report" like the once-respected *Birmingham News*, which includes in its many stories under tabloid-worthy headlines such phrases as "according to several people interviewed" and "according to coaches and others interviewed" and "according to those interviewed."

About some things there is no question. There is no doubt that Alabama faces an expensive and frustrating task to defend itself against charges in a seemingly certain-to-come "Official Inquiry" letter, which will carry a specific statement of possible rules infractions. (The NCAA hopes to issue that letter by June 1. Obviously, the faster things move the better for Alabama. Regardless of the outcome, Crimson Tide football has already been punished in one recruiting season and can ill afford that penalty in a second recruiting year even before official punishment, if any, is meted.) Those who work as investigators for the NCAA may or may not be particularly intelligent, but without doubt they are extraordinarily persistent. Moreover, these underlings are unlikely to spend thousands and thousands of dollars and months of high-salaried time in a preliminary inquiry and then report they have found no wrongdoing.

And Alabama still faces the prospect of going before the NCAA Infractions Committee. Many believe the NCAA's expensive payoff to former Alabama Faculty Athletics Chairman Tom Jones and the apology the Infraction Committee's chairman, David Swank, was forced to issue to Alabama following the 1995 ruling will tem-

per that committee's action against Alabama. However, wary Tide officials won't forget that NCAA double-cross. In that case The University was sucker-punched by Swank, in one fell swoop charged and convicted of Jones having the dreaded "lack of institutional control." Even though Jones got money and The University got an apology, the extraordinarily severe and unprecedented penalties remained in place. Without that charge against Jones Alabama was guilty of virtually nothing, and the NCAA investigative staff pointed out that Alabama's violations were "inadvertent and non-systemic." Nevertheless, Bama carries the stigma because of the incompetence (at best) of the Infractions Committee.

The current investigation centers on Alabama's football program for 1997-2000, the period in which Mike DuBose was head coach. It is possible that suspicions of impropriety will prove true.

According to the preliminary letter of inquiry sent to The University, the investigation centers on "possible violations" in the areas of "offers and inducements to prospective student-athletes and...extra benefits to enrolled student-athletes...potential academic impropriety with prospective student-athletes prior to their enrollment..." The letter added, "Finally, information has been reported that indicates that former members of the institution's coaching staff may have been involved in or knowledgeable of some of these potential violations, which could result in a violation of the NCAA's unethical conduct legislation for these individuals."

With no specific information given, various sources have suggested the inquiry has looked into the possibility that prospects (notably Albert Means) were "bought" in Memphis, that money was given or loaned to the sister of a prospect (Kenny Smith, who eventually signed with Tennessee), that Alabama coaches were too involved in the use of the prep school Millford Academy for potential athletes (notably current signee Mac Tyler of Bessemer), that former Tide Recruiting Coordinator Ronnie Cottrell helped former signee Michael Gaines fraudulently attain academic eligibility, that Gaines was given benefits by Cottrell after Alabama refused his admission, and that Alabama conducted recruiting parties in which funding for the parties and/or for prospects and/or players was provided by a booster. There would seem to be little or no substance to a reported charge by Florida

Head Coach Steve Spurrier that Bama lineman Justin Smiley was given a truck to sign with Alabama. A suggestion that Harold James' admission to Alabama was based on some academic impropriety was given impetus by The University this spring when James was suspended from the football team. The suspension was characterized as being for "academics," and Football Coach Dennis Franchione said, "It wasn't done by me."

The suspension of James points out the possibility that some in the Alabama camp are in something of a quandary. Associate Athletics Director for Compliance Marie Robbins is paid by The University, but has a charge that correctly makes her first allegiance to the rules of the NCAA. Robbins' zealotry in this area has given her quite a reputation.

Faculty Chairman of Athletics Gene Marsh also owes that diligence to the NCAA rules. Additionally, he is a member of the Infractions Committee (though, of course, will not sit on that side of the table when Alabama's case appears). Many thought at one time that Marsh's membership on that committee might work subtly for Alabama, but there is also a school of thought that Marsh might be pressured to prove his worthiness to the committee by his stance.

It is common practice for a school being investigated by the NCAA to hire a former NCAA investigator. This cottage industry of former investigators who get big bucks for intruding with their former employer on behalf of the schools is due about the same respect as a former government employee going to work as a lobbyist for business doing deals with his former government department. Alabama went to the firm of Icemiller, not coincidentally located in Indianapolis, the home of the NCAA, and hired former NCAA Investigator Rich Hilliard. Historically there has been the view that these former investigators are quite close to their former employer and work hand-in-glove with the accuser seeking the path of least resistance to conviction.

Although Alabama is a member of the Southeastern Conference, few would put SEC Commissioner Roy Kramer in Bama's corner. Kramer, who grew up practically in the shadow of Neyland Stadium and who was recently announced as being a member of the selection committee for Tennessee's new basketball coach, is privy to all information about the investigation.





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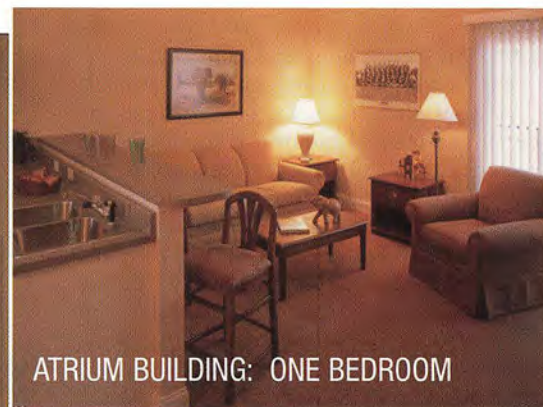


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# They Hit The Ground Running

by J.E. Lisby

Four of the five offensive coaching spots are filled by veteran Franchione assistants

**T**he adage notwithstanding, change is not always a good thing. One example of where it is not is a football coaching staff. A degree of turnover is inevitable, but successful head coaches seem to have a knack for keeping their staffs together.

By taking over a demoralized Tide football team, Dennis Franchione knew that he would face problems. But by bringing with him to Tuscaloosa almost his entire offensive staff from TCU, Franchione guaranteed that breaking in several new assistant coaches would not be a worry. "Put yourself in his position," explained Tight Ends Coach Mark Tommerdahl. "He doesn't have to coach up new assistants and then have them coach the players. With everyone being familiar with his system already, we were able to hit the ground running. Having that continuity is important, because we were able to implement his system and get things moving quickly."

Including Tommerdahl, four of the five offensive jobs at Alabama are filled by Franchione veterans. Jim Bob Helduser is responsible for the offensive line. Kenith Pope coaches wide receivers. And Les Koenning handles the dual roles of offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach. In fact, Lee Fobbs is the only newcomer to the staff, filling the position of running backs coach, which came open when Mike Shultz was elevated to offensive coordinator by staying at TCU.

Koenning (who was featured in last month's *BAMA* magazine) is responsible for breaking down film, assembling statistics and directing the efforts of the other offensive assistants. Plus, he will be the position coach for the Tide quarterbacks. But with a nationally recognized reputation on the offensive side of the ball, Franchione will continue to play a pivotal role, designing and developing the offense, putting together game plans, and calling plays on Saturdays.

**H**aving signed on to work with Franchione at New Mexico after serving stints at Wyoming and Minnesota, Tommerdahl boasts the longest consecutive tenure with his head coach. "We wanted to add a screen pass to our offense at Minnesota," Tommerdahl said. "And I went to New Mexico to get Fran's screen. That's

where I met him. Later, when I heard he had an opening on his staff, I called him."

With 15 years experience in the coaching ranks, the youthful-looking Tommerdahl, is actually a veteran coach. Besides tight ends, during his career he has served as recruiting coordinator, backfield coach and offensive coordinator.

An accomplished public speaker, Tommerdahl will also coordinate special teams for Alabama, and he's been with Franchione long enough to understand exactly what the head coach expects. "You can talk about coaches, but the more important thing is implementing the system," Tommerdahl said. "The key is whether everyone buys into it, and Fran brought (six) guys with him who believe in the system. Now it's our job to make sure that 140 players buy into it."

A specific goal for Tommerdahl is to see to it that tight end All-America candidate Terry Jones Jr. gets his share of touches next fall. But the coach also sees a more important long-term challenge. "In a larger sense it's our charge to bring back Alabama football to what it once was," Tommerdahl said. "How long will it take? That's the wild card. But compare that charge to trying to bring a program somewhere it's never been. That's a big difference."

**T**he wide receivers will be coached by former Oklahoma star, Kenith Pope. "I started my career coaching linebackers," he said. "But with my second job at SMU I moved to receivers. Right now I'm thoroughly pleased with the talent on the squad. Obviously the previous staff did a great job recruiting for the wide receiver corps. What I've seen at practice has been very, very encouraging. I feel like we've got six to seven real talented guys that will come along and give us a chance to be good."

Almost from the moment the two set foot on campus, Pope has worked with his head coach to develop team unity and restore the confidence of the Bama players. "Coach Fran has a special way with athletes," Pope said. "You hear a lot of people saying 'We're a family.' But family doesn't start in games or even on the practice field. Family starts every day when you see the players outside of the foot-

ball environment. We recently went bowling with the players, and we'll do several other bonding activities. You can see the guys coming together more, feeling good about each other and feeling good about themselves."

With names like Milons, Carter and McAddley dotting the Bama depth chart at receiver, Pope knows he's got plenty of physical ability to work with. But he's taken it as a challenge to transform the Tide receivers into tough players as well. "I always tell Coach (Franchione) that I like for my guys to be some of the most physical guys on the field," Pope said. "It's something that I take a lot of pride in. It's their job not only to catch the football but to do a great job in blocking as well. This fall I want to see a very physical and determined group. My job is to get them to play with an attitude and a physical presence. If we can get that done, I think their athletic skills will come out as well."

Along with his work with the Tide receivers, Pope recently added the title of Assistant Head Coach, assuming additional administrative responsibilities. "Kenny is someone who everyone on our staff respects and looks up to," Franchione said. "I know that all the assistants consider that a plus."

**A**labama's new offensive line coach said that with a name like Jim Bob, it was probably destined that he would someday end up coaching in the Deep South. Christened James Robert by his parents, Coach Helduser has been Jim Bob since his childhood in Groves, Texas. Before moving to Tuscaloosa, Helduser had spent his entire career in the Lone Star State. "It'll be a challenging situation," Helduser said. "Coaches generally understand that when jobs turn over, whether it be at Alabama or some other school, there are problems to be solved. The good thing about our coaching staff is that we've been together for awhile, and we've all got a good level of experience. So I don't think any of us have come into this situation with blinders on."

With previous experience as a head coach, Helduser is another who brings a great deal of knowledge to the Bama staff. But he believes his duties go beyond coaching football. "Our basic philosophy is that we exist as as-





Alabama's offensive staff is (left to right) Quarterbacks Coach and Coordinator Les Koenning, Receivers Coach and Assistant Head Coach Kenith Pope, Tight ends Coach Mark Tommerdahl, Offensive Line Coach Jim Bob Helduser, Graduate Assistant Mike Bloomgren, and Running Backs Coach Lee Fobbs.

Barry Fikes Photo

sistant football coaches because of our players," Helduser said. "If it weren't for them, we wouldn't be here. So we're going to be very concerned about everything, not just what they do on the field. We watch them in the weight room, in the classroom, and socially."

Helduser's immediate task will be developing a group of talented but mostly inexperienced athletes into a unit capable of performing effectively in the SEC. "The important thing that we've got to do is get these kids melded together, get them working together as a unit," he said. "Any time you come into a new situation with a new system on offense, there's a lot of teaching that goes on. But the more that you can play together on the offensive line, then the faster that transition will take place."

The Tide players received their marching orders when Franchione first arrived on campus. Get bigger and stronger, or else. And while working with the offensive linemen on a daily basis, Helduser is taking that mandate seriously. "There's no required height, weight or speed to play on the offensive line," he said. "It takes something that can't be measured to be successful. I can promise that our offensive line will be physical; they will be

strong. And that will help us win the fourth quarter. We will be a physical presence. To win at this level, you have to be able to stop the run and run effectively yourself. We will be able to run the football."

Filling the position of running backs coach, Lee Fobbs may have been the last member of the offensive staff hired but the veteran coach had been on Franchione's radar screen for several years. "I had been keeping track of Lee for awhile now," Franchione said. "He is so well thought of by his peers, so well respected, that he was an easy hire. He came in and has been just like everybody told me he would be."

A graduate of Grambling where he played for the legendary Eddie Robinson, Fobbs was a good enough running back himself to play professionally. But after several seasons with Ottawa and Winnipeg of the CFL, his playing days ended with Birmingham of the now-defunct World Football League. However, without missing a beat the Louisiana native moved into coaching, beginning on the high school level in his home state. "Professional ball was great, but ultimately I wanted to get

into coaching," Fobbs said. "I wanted to play as long as I could, but I had plans for afterwards. Coach Robinson influenced me there. He always talked to us about being prepared for what you wanted to do. I understood how short a player's life expectancy is. I love football. Coaching allowed me to stay close to the game and be outdoors. And I love working with youngsters."

With stops at Northeast Louisiana, Tulane, LSU, Southern Miss, Minnesota and Baylor, the 50-year-old Fobbs brings experience. And, interestingly, his college days at Grambling served to prime him for his present job with the Tide. "Alabama's reputation has always been very high," Fobbs said. "We all knew about it because of Coach Robinson's association with Coach Bryant. We listened to him talk all the time about how this is the way 'the Bear' would do it. And when Coach (Robinson) would speak, we would listen."

"Alabama was the elite. The legacy of The University of Alabama has always intrigued me. To have a chance to coach here at The University, to have a chance to play for a national championship, was very, very attractive to me."



# Teaching Tide To Be Aggressive

by J. E. Lisby

Franchione has reputation on offense, but historically has had good defenses

With his Texas Christian team having led the nation last season in both scoring defense and total defense, Alabama Head Coach Dennis Franchione understands quality defense. He is also aware of the tradition of dominating defensive play by Crimson Tide teams past. When Gary Patterson, his defensive coordinator at TCU, was selected to replace Franchione as head coach of the Horned Frogs, Franchione quickly moved to hire Carl Torbush, one of the best defensive minds in college football.

Franchione's expertise is offense, and he's expected to give Torbush wide latitude in designing and developing Alabama's defense. But even the most gifted coach can't do the job alone. Franchione has assembled a talented and veteran staff to work with Torbush.

In addition to his responsibilities as defensive coordinator, Torbush (who was featured in last month's *BAMA* magazine) will coach linebackers. Stan Eggen will handle the defensive line. Chris Thurmond will coach cornerbacks. And long-time Torbush friend and colleague Ron Case will coach safeties.

With the initial questions regarding Patterson's status and then the abbreviated tenure of Mark Parks as a member of the Tide staff, for several weeks it was uncertain how Franchione would divide responsibilities. It was assumed that Torbush, who has sent numerous linebackers to the NFL, would stick with his specialty. But there was some question whether the extra coach would work with linemen or defensive backs.

The decision was made to split responsibilities in the secondary. Ron Case was lured out of retirement to coach Tide safeties. "After leaving North Carolina, I had fully expected to retire," Case said. "But coaching at Alabama is the kind of job you coach your whole career to get a chance at. "And," he added, "I couldn't pass up the chance to work with Carl again. I was with him at Ole Miss for four years and at North Carolina for five, so we know we can work together."

With more than three decades of experience behind him, Case is the oldest member of the Tide staff. And at an age when many coaches are long since burned out, he still enjoys the game. "I think I've lasted because my temperament is even," Case said. "I never get too high, and I'm never low. I've seen coaches burn out, including a lot of head coaches. I think that's because they're up too

high and when those lows come, they're just devastating. I'm always an even-keel person when I address anything and when I coach."

His calm, forthright manner is unusual in today's win-at-all-costs game. But Case understands the difference between so-called battles on the football field and the genuine article. "I've been coaching for 35 years, and I got into it a little bit differently from most coaches," Case said. "I got out of the Marine Corps lacking only seven years to retirement. And when people ask me why I didn't get those last years, I just tell them I was tired of going to Vietnam."

Many a former football player can head to the attic and dig out a college letterman's jacket. But Case's sporting apparel was strictly Government Issue. "I played service football, and to do that you really have to have a love for the game," he said. "It wasn't anything like college football. It wasn't 'rah rah,' in fact it could get pretty brutal. I was a quarterback and linebacker, which was quite a combination. But I enjoyed the defensive side. I've always preferred to hit somebody than otherwise."

Torbush and Case have worked together for so long they know without asking what the other is thinking during practice. Both prefer an aggressive, man-to-man style of coverage that seeks to dictate play to the offense. "I really enjoy coaching the secondary," Case said. "There's never a dull moment, and it's always a challenge. A defensive back is always exposed. You can't hide in the secondary."

Case's partner this year in directing the Tide defensive backs is Chris Thurmond, another veteran coach who made the move with Franchione from TCU to Tuscaloosa. "TCU was a good school," Thurmond said. "But Alabama is one of the special places in college football. Alabama always gets your attention. So when Fran told us about the opportunity, I was excited."

A graduate of the University of Tulsa, Thurmond has spent most of his career working with defensive backs. But he also has coached linebackers as well as handling the responsibilities of defensive coordinator. And like every other member of the current Tide staff, Franchione had him tabbed as a potential assistant long before Thurmond joined his staff. "When I was first at Tulsa, Coach Fran used to come through and visit when he was at Pittsburg State," Thurmond said. "We got to be friends, and when he went to New Mexico, he offered me the defensive coordinator's job. I regretted not going with him then, but we stayed in touch and I eventually got with him."

Franchione and Bama's cornerbacks coach share a past work history, but spring drills marked Thurmond's first chance to work with Carl Torbush on the practice field. Torbush favors a 4-3 defense while TCU utilized a 4-2-5 scheme last season. However, Thurmond dismisses the suggestion of any problems. "There are some misconceptions about defense," he said. "Most of the defensive things that are

being done in college football are really, really similar. If an offense lines up with two backs in the backfield, then you might can sit up in the stands and say 'That's a 4-2' or 'That's an eight-man front.' But when it goes to a one-back, there's only about one way you can line up to get everything matched up. So we're all really similar, and from one staff to another you're doing a lot of the same things. What we're doing now is meshing what we did at TCU with what Carl's done in the past. We're trying to combine the best of both."

At the start of every practice, Thurmond stands in the middle of the Tide cornerbacks while Ron Case watches the safeties. But despite the fact that the various defensive assistants are identified with a particular position, their actual duties aren't clearly delineated. "Obviously, on defense we all work together," Thurmond said. "And we do a lot of team teaching. There may be times when I will be teaching a linebacker man-to-man coverage and Coach Torbush may be teaching the corners an underneath concept. Coach Case and I obviously will work together, so there is a division on paper. But for the most part we all coach everybody on defense. We have an area that we focus on, but still it's a joint effort."

Thurmond added, "There is a high level of trust on our staff. We don't just coach together. We're all friends. We're friends with Coach Fran, and we're friends with each other. When we left TCU, we felt a bond with each other and a tremendous sense of loyalty. We wanted to stay together if we possibly could, and that has continued."

The final member of Bama's close-knit defensive staff is Stan Eggen. Another veteran coach with extensive experience on his resume, Eggen believes in passing along more than just coaching to his athletes. "The biggest thing I want to get across is when you go out, take pride in everything that you do," Eggen said. "Take pride in doing it right every time. We understand that it's not always going to be perfect every time, but that's what we've got to set our mind toward. Set that as a goal."

Relatively short in stature, most of the Tide linemen tower over Eggen on the practice field. But he brings a combative attitude to his job. "Forget 'read and react,' we attack," Eggen said. "That's my attitude. I want the offensive guys worrying about what I'm doing when I'm wearing a defensive number, rather than me worrying about what he's going to do. We'll attack the football first, and then redirect. We are going to challenge offenses. We are going to set points, squeeze and run to the football."

A veteran coach even before he joined up with Franchione at New Mexico, Eggen admits he doesn't exactly look the part of the fire-breathing defensive line coach. And standing only 5-11 or so, he can't count on size to intimidate. But as a guaranteed laugh line in speeches, Eggen explains being short





Defensive coaches for Alabama are (left to right) Safeties Coach Ron Case, Cornerbacks Coach Chris Thurmond, Linebackers Coach and Coordinator Carl Torbush, Graduate Assistant Rick LaFavers, and Line Coach Stan Eggen. B arry Fikes Photo

makes it easier for him to "chew butt" when necessary. "I think if you watch a position, then you will see the characteristics of the personality of that coach," Eggen said. "If you go back and look at the (defensive) fronts that I have coached, I think you will see the kind of coach that I am. Fans can expect somebody energetic. Somebody who challenges his players to be the best they can be every day and every snap. I want them to develop that attitude. You'll definitely see someone out there with an aggressive attitude."

Franchione-coached teams have played quite well defensively for the past few seasons. "The reason Dennis Franchione has been successful is because he really believes in strength," Eggen said. "Strength to allow you to be explosive and get off the ball, but also strength that makes you more durable. Then linemen can play longer and harder, linemen can take more snaps, they can wear people down with their strength."

Eggen contends that defensive football remains a simple proposition. "We have to stop the run first," he said. "No 'ifs, ands or buts.' No matter what we do, we've got to stop the run. Then, we're going to attack and be aggressive. The offensive man knows where the ball is going, but I want to make that guy nervous about what we're going to do. Attack and be aggressive. If my guys up front are back-pedaling, then I'm in trouble."

## What Franchione Looks For In Assistants

**I**t turns out, coaching really does matter. And assembling a coaching staff willing and able to work together in building a team is absolutely essential for success. "The number one criterion for me in putting together a staff is chemistry," Alabama Head Coach Dennis Franchione said. "Guys who are able to put their egos aside and give to the team. Get along and work well together. I think if the staff has chemistry, then the players will have it. But if the staff doesn't, then the players won't either."

Franchione said, "The second factor is loyalty. A lot of young coaches today are learning loyalty runs both ways, from me to them and from them to me. And from them to each other."

With chemistry and loyalty a solid one and two on his list of criteria, Franchione said, "Knowledge or expertise is a factor. But actually in the past I've passed on guys with great knowledge who are not good in the other two areas. That's why I always look at the first two factors first."

"You're going to find a lot of good Xs and Os football coaches. But this game is a lot more than just good Xs and Os. Being a team, giving to the team and sacrificing your ego. It's not wrong to want more responsibility. It's just wrong to let your ego get in the way of it. The more the staff is a team, the more the players will consider themselves a team."

The current Tide staff sports numerous former coordinators, including several assistants with head coaching experience. But interestingly Franchione denies any of that carried decisive weight in his hires. "I didn't necessarily go out to hire guys with higher experience. Those were just the guys I thought would recruit well. That the chiefs would be chiefs and the Indians would be Indians. That they'll all step in harmony, and they will all fulfill their roles. The staff is knowledgeable, yes. But I didn't think anybody would come in trying to push himself over somebody else. They are all hungry for as much responsibility as they can get, but they are willing to earn it."

Franchione said, "There are some guys who are great recruiters on this staff. There are some guys who are great coaches. I think it's important to have a blend. You'd like for every coach you have to be a great recruiter and a great coach. But they all have strengths. You hire them for different reasons. You take that all into consideration and try to hire as good a combination as you can. The members of my current staff are all good in their own ways. And they all understand their roles."

-J.E. Lisby



**Shontua Ray:**

# Senior Sees Opportunity This Spring

**by Kirk McNair**

**Speedster not discouraged by earlier disappointments**

**A**lthough new Alabama Head Football Coach Dennis Franchione said the pre-spring practice depth chart was of little consequence, it was of more than a little interest. And one of the more interesting notations was that of Shontua Ray penciled in as the number one strong safety.

If Ray had the attitude that things have not gone his way, it would be understandable. He was recruited to Alabama as a running back after a stellar prep career in which he also set records as a track sprinter, but he was never given a chance at tailback. He was moved to defense, but never got many snaps as a cornerback, either. Now he's a senior and has new coaches and a new system and a new position.

And Shontua (pronounced Shon-TOO) Ray sees it as a new opportunity.

The 5-9, 215-pound star of kickoff coverage for the past few seasons, wants to earn a spot in Alabama's line-up at strong safety. Were he younger, he'd like the chance to show his skills as a running back. "But I've been on defense so long, I'm happy to stay there," he said. "I'm just happy to be playing. I enjoy playing football. I'm excited to get on the field and try to prove that I'm the guy for the job."

And Ray does want to prove it. When his name showed up as the number one strong safety at the start of spring drills, he said, "It doesn't mean much. You have to go on the field and perform. No one gives you anything in football."

He said, "Coach Fran asked me about moving to strong safety. I told him I'd do anything I could to help the team and to get on the field."

Ray has some background as a defensive player from his days at Montevallo High School, although he was best known as a runner. He closed his prep career with 6,152 yards rushing and 71 touchdowns. He averaged just under 8.5 yards per carry for his ca-

Shontua Ray is learning a new position from a new assistant coach this spring. Coach Ron Case gives Ray pointers in being a strong safety.

Barry Fikes Photo









reer and 8.8 yards in rushing for 2,281 yards and 32 touchdowns his senior season when he was a prep All-America. He was about as well known in track as a two-time state champion in both the 100- and 200-meter dashes, and state record-holder in the 200 at 21.1.

But, Ray said, he also played some cornerback for Coach Eddie Williams' team. And he said when he was recruited by former Tide Assistant Dabo Swinney following his 1997 prep season, he was told that if things didn't work out on offense, he'd get his shot on defense.

Ray dismisses his lack of an opportunity to play tailback. "We had Shaun Alexander," he said of his freshman and sophomore seasons.

A little less easy to dismiss is his wasted freshman year in 1998. "I was in on four plays," he said. "I wasted a year of eligibility to be in on three plays as a receiver and one as a running back. Everyone wants to play, but looking back that really hurts."

**R**ay really began to make his mark as a member of the Crimson Tide kickoff coverage team in 1999, Bama's Southeastern Conference championship season. He was in on 19 tackles, including four each against Florida and Southern Miss.

"When they put me on the field, I felt it was my duty to give 100 per cent," Ray said. "My high school coach taught us always to 'Bring something to the table.' When I got a chance on kickoff coverage, I wanted to do the best I could. Special teams is an important part of football and kickoff coverage can be critical because of field position."

Indeed, Ray thinks that part of Alabama's fall from SEC champion in 1999 to a 3-8 season in 2000 was poor kickoff coverage. "We had one or two who it was important to, and some who were just out there," he said. "In 1999 everyone on the coverage team wanted to make plays and we had a lot of fun."

Ray said that as a kickoff coverage specialist he was moved around to keep the opposing return team from being able to key on him. Unlike most coverage men, he wasn't running a lane. He was looking for the ball-carrier to get "head up" on him. "I was the 'gunner' or the 'dog.' They don't like us to call it 'kill man' anymore, but that's still what I think of it," Ray said.

He remembers his first big hit on a kickoff return man in the Arkansas game at Bryant-Denny Stadium. Crowd reaction told him it was appreciated and he "realized that if I would get down there and not get blocked, I could make every play."

His goal is to make sure the ball-carrier is stopped inside the 20-yard line, "and 15 if possible," he said. "That usually means that if the defense gets a stop, we'll be getting the ball back in position to score. It also means their offense has got to go 80 yards for a touchdown, and that's hard to do. So if we get them stopped, inside the 20, we've done our job."

He knows that every team likes to have a kickoff man who can kick off deep into the end zone with little or no chance of a return. "That's good for the team," he said, "but it wouldn't be much fun for me."



Shontua Ray's biggest contribution to Alabama football thus far has been his ability to cover kickoffs. He hopes to have an expanded role in his senior season. Barry Fikes Photo

While Ray enjoyed the past two years when Alabama was kicking off, he said "I was very disappointed not to be playing defense. But I never got down and I kept pressing forward believing that something good would eventually come out of it."

He was also disappointed in last season's record. "The most difficult part of it was having guys who were giving their best and still not winning," Ray said. It was particularly bad

late in the season, he said. "It's a lot harder to keep motivated when you aren't playing for a championship and knowing that your coaches are going to be gone at the end of the season. Playing for pride alone is very hard. And having a losing record at The University of Alabama is very hard because there have been so few of them. But we had a losing record and now we've got to hope that we learned from it and that it will help us in the future."



Ray believes that strong safety suits his abilities. "I'm pretty physical," he said. "I love to come up and hit on run support. But at the same time, I have the speed to cover receivers. So being able to do both makes it a great position for me."

His coaches agree.

Franchione said, "I think he's more suited to strong safety than to cornerback. He's a physical player who should be a good tackler."

In early spring work, Ray has done well, according to Ron Case, who coaches the Crimson Tide safeties. "He's learning the system and he's got a chance," Case said. "He's a conscientious kid who wants a starting position. He's got the ability, speed and size, so now it's a matter of getting him shaped up. He's working hard, and you have to in this system. He looks like he should be good in run support, but he's got to develop his coverage skills for when he's out there in space."

Ray said, "I had thought when I was at cornerback that I'd be a better strong safety, but we had a lot of safeties and didn't have many cornerbacks, so they had to leave me at corner for depth," he said.

With three safeties—Marcus Spencer, Tony Dixon and Jason Jones—having completed their eligibility last season, Ray was able to make the move to strong safety.

Although some of the safety candidates can play both strong and free positions, Ray is strictly at strong safety. Reggie Myles and Connie

Brown, considered by most to be the top free safety candidates, are both capable of playing strong safety, too. Charles Jones and walk-on Wayne Bacon are other safety candidates.

Ray said the most difficult things for him at strong safety have been "formation recognition and just a lack of experience." But, he said, "The practices give us a lot of reps, and the more you do it, the better you should be. The keys they have given us have helped with formation recognition."

He said, "The practices are really fast-paced. Everyone is flying around and everyone is having to learn a lot. We have to build on what we've learned every day. The first practice of the spring was one of the most intense practices I've ever been around."

Ray also likes things going on off the field. In the off-season conditioning work, Ray said he "maxed out most of my goals in the weight room. That was a positive experience. Everyone worked hard because everyone wants to get better. In fact, the goal is to be the best."

The senior has also good feelings about the new emphasis on academics. "With the punishment for missing class, I believe the graduation rate is going to get a lot higher," Ray said. "It helps to have a mandatory breakfast. The hardest part about going to class is getting up in the morning, and with the breakfast you have to get up. Our teachers are aware of it, too, and that makes a difference. I wish we'd had that policy when I first came here."

Ray said, "We have a goal to have a team grade point average of at least 2.5. That means that everyone has to do his part. That's another part of teamwork. I think all of us are having fun being together as a team. It's really more like a family."

Ray is a human performance major who hopes one day to be a high school coach. He came from a positive high school football situation, one where the community was supportive. And that's something he likes about Alabama. "Even when things were bad last year, the fans were real supportive of the players," he said.

Ray almost didn't make it to Alabama. He said he really had grown up paying more attention to Auburn and as a senior thought that he might like to play at Florida. But, he said, the combination of wanting to be close to home so his parents could see him play and the good recruiting job by Dabo Swinney convinced him to choose the Crimson Tide.

In addition to football, Ray had some success last year as a member of Coach Harvey Glance's track and field squad. Last year he mostly participated as a member of the relay teams and had a best time of 10.4 in the 100 meters. He'd like to return to the track this spring if there is time after football drills. He said that the fastest players on the football team are he and wide receivers Jason McAddley and Freddie Milons.

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# Gymnasts Take Aim At NCAA Title

by Andrew Varble II

**Not always most talented, Alabama has history of contending for crown**

In gymnastics, April is championship season. And the Crimson Tide is gearing up for another post-season run. Gymnastics is one of those sports where the conference championship has little bearing. Even though Alabama makes an effort to win the late-March Southeastern Conference title—indeed, went into this year's meet as defending champion—the NCAA events are of far greater importance. Thus, the Crimson Tide has its sights set on the NCAA Central Regional and on the NCAA Championships.

Alabama is peaking at the right time. The Tide started out solidly back in January and has improved week by week. It has spent the entire regular season among the nation's top three teams, including a seven-week stint at number two. The team has a nice mixture of stars and role players, with everyone on the roster willing and able to step up and do her part. Alabama is a legitimate contender for the NCAA Championship, and if gymnastics had a bracket like basketball, everyone would have penciled the Tide in as a Super-Six finalist. The Tide isn't the favorite going into the national title hunt—that honor belongs to the UCLA juggernaut, with its contingent of Olympians—, but no one is counting the Tide out, either. Alabama has been balanced, hold-

ing the nation's best road average and going undefeated at home for the second year in a row.

And if all that sounds just a bit familiar, well, it is. Every year since the Tide's first NCAA Championship trip in 1983, the Tide has been a contender for the NCAA title going into the month of April. The Tide has brought home three titles and none of those teams were considered the most talented in the nation. Sarah and David Patterson, in their 23rd year leading the Crimson Tide, have a knack for getting their charges ready for the post season. Their formula for success is simple in theory, but tough in execution: Start with a solid set of skills and then add to that base throughout the season.

That strategy has carried Alabama to 16 top five finishes in the past 18 years. Only one other team, Utah, has been to more NCAA Championships, with 19 to the Tide's 18.

This year's edition of the Crimson Tide is led by the all-around foursome of juniors Andree Pickens and Raegan Tomasek, sophomore Kristin Sterner, and rookie Jeana Rice.

Pickens hasn't completed her third season yet and she's already won an individual NCAA Championship and earned nine All-America honors. She has also been named both SEC Freshman of the Year and SEC Gymnast of the Year and she was given the Sington Soaring Spirit Award as the top Amateur Athlete of the Year in the state of Alabama. She started her junior season by winning the all-around at the Super Six Challenge and she has twice been named SEC Gymnasts of the Week in 2001. She holds the highest all-around score in the

conference and scored the sixth 10 of her career during the season's eighth week. A pressure player, she's a threat to hit big in every event, every time out.

Tomasek has gone all-around six times this season, a statistic that's all the more impressive because before this season she had gone all four events in a meet just twice. Hitting her stride in her third season, she has bettered her career mark on three of four events and the all-around. At Georgia during the season's ninth week, she hit a vault with a top end value of 9.9 for a 9.9, giving her a perfect score and a new career high.

Quiet by nature, Sterner is a power to be reckoned with on the gymnastics floor. She has bettered all her career marks, including the all-around, which she set at 39.5 over in Athens against Georgia. She also scored a 9.975 on the floor exercise to help push Alabama over the Bulldogs when the two powers met in Tuscaloosa at mid-season.

The rookie of the bunch, Rice has also been the Tide's workhorse this season, missing only two routines all season. She scored a career best 39.5 in the all-around against LSU and posted a 9.95 on the vault at Georgia. Rice also own a 9.975 on the floor exercise, and, like Sterner, it came during the Tide's school record floor performance against Georgia in Tuscaloosa.

And with those four, Bama is just getting started. Uneven bars All-America Natalie Barrington reaffirmed her reputation as one of the nation's best, scoring the first 10 of her career on the bars against Georgia in Tuscaloosa. Barrington has scored 9.9 or better on the uneven bars six times this season. Senior All-America Lissy Smith has done the same thing she has done all her career, which is being the steadiest balance beam worker in school history according to Sarah Patterson. Smith scored a season best 9.95 twice this season, once during the roar of the Athens crowd against Georgia. In addition to holding down a spot in the Tide's balance beam lineup, senior Dara Stewart has also been rock steady on the uneven bars, the event on which she has earned All-America honors three years running.

Senior Robin Hawkins returned at mid-season from last year's knee surgery showing she's ready to pickup where she left off. She scored a 9.875 on the floor exercise in just her second meet back in the rotation. Junior Alexa Martinez, like Hawkins, made her mid-season return to the lineup after knee surgery cut short her sophomore year. Martinez has responded with career best marks of 9.925 on both the balance beam and floor exercise. The return of Martinez and Hawkins gives the Tide not only increased depth, but front line scoring power. Their returns also helped soft-

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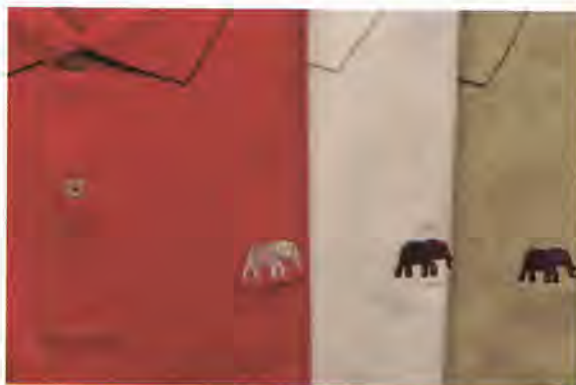
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en the blow when senior All-America Katie Hornecker's career was ended by a torn Achilles heel at mid-season.

The dynamic duo of Erin and Lauren Holdefer have made an immediate impact on the Tide's lineup in their rookie seasons. The twins from Northport have taken different paths. Erin started out the season in the vault lineup and has yet to miss a meet, leading off the Tide's effort. She has twice scored a 9.85 on a vault with a max value of 9.9. Lauren, after shaking off some preseason bumps and bruises, made her debut in the pressure cooker of the Georgia meet in Athens, making her way into the vault and floor lineup. Rookie Stephanie Kite had a rough start on the floor, but has flourished the way the Pattersons knew she could. The Texan scored a career best 9.9 against Kentucky late in the season.

Birmingham native Sara Scarborough, in her second Tide season, has been steady on the vault all season while junior Whitney Morgan has seen action on the uneven bars.

**G**ymnastics isn't a sport where a team adjusts its game plan depending on an opponent's game plan or personnel. Gymnastics has no defense and there are no head-to-head matchups. All that means the Pattersons don't have to worry about how to handle a full-court press, a stacked line, or speed at the corners. Another team's performance can only affect a gymnast in terms of confidence or crowd reaction. A reputation, like the one enjoyed by UCLA this season, can be intimidating.

To negate the intimidation factor, the Pattersons turn to another concept most often heard in basketball and football: strength of schedule. Every year, Alabama faces the nation's toughest schools so that, "when we get to nationals, we're not looking over our shoulders," Sarah Patterson said. "I want our ladies to know that they've seen the best. All they should be thinking about at the end is going out and doing their best." There is no doubt that Alabama has seen the nation's finest this season. The Tide faced UCLA, who has gone from the preseason to the postseason as the nation's top-ranked squad, in Los Angeles at mid-season. The Tide has also faced an up-and-coming Stanford team, as well as always strong Michigan, Penn State and Florida.

And then there's Georgia. The Tide faced its archrival three times during the regular season, going 1-1-1. The two squads tied for first at the season-opening, Tide-hosted, Super Six Challenge. The Bulldogs then traveled back to Tuscaloosa for round two, falling to the Tide in a seesaw battle that culminated in Alabama pulling out the win with a school record floor exercise score.

Perhaps the most important meet of the Tide's regular season was its last regular season meeting with Georgia, a slugfest that came down to the very last rotation, the last competitor for each team. The Tide came out on the short end of the meet by a mere .15



Gymnastics stars for the Crimson Tide include (left to right) freshman Jeana Rice, junior Raegan Tomasek, junior Andree Pickens, and sophomore Kristin Sterner. Barry Fikes Photo

with the meet hanging in the balance of every routine. Rarely have two great teams gone toe-to-toe like that, going score for score, each team raising the ante just a bit more. The amazing thing for the Tide and the fact that should give the Pattersons' ladies loads of confidence in the postseason, is that Alabama scored a 197.075, on the road, almost beating the Bulldogs in their home gym, all without Andree Pickens in the lineup. Pickens hit her head on the beam in practice the week leading up to the Georgia meet and had a slight concussion. The Pattersons held her out of the meet in Athens as a precaution. Alabama responded to life without their star with a gritty performance that proved to any doubters that the Tide is more than just Pickens. All this came at the site of the 2001 NCAA Championships, giving Alabama an added boost when it returns in a few weeks.

**T**he road to the title goes through three do-or-die competitions. Alabama will host one of six NCAA Regionals around the country on April 7. Coleman Coliseum will be the site of the Central Regional and in addition to the Tide, two more members of the nation's top-18 will be

seeded into the meet, along with the next three highest ranked teams in the Central Region. To be one of the 12 teams that advance to the final site, Alabama has to be one of the top-two finishers at the regional. There are no at-large bids, a change that came in 1999. Alabama, hosting its seventh regional, has won 16 of the last 18 regionals and finished no lower than second since 1982.

Round two of the NCAA Championship will involve two sessions at the NCAA Championships. Six teams will compete in each session April 19 with the top-three from each session earning the right to compete in the Super Six for the team title on April 20.

Alabama has been on the floor on the last night of the NCAA Championships 17 times. According to Sarah Patterson, the Tide has never been the most talented team, but three times Bama squads came away with the gold trophy and another nine times Alabama has left the awards podium with a silver or bronze. With the most talented team in school history, with coaches who know how to close out a season and despite the fact that the field appears to be the toughest ever, Alabama is making another run at a championship, another gold trophy for the case.



# Men's Basketball Makes Its Point

by Kirk McNair

Basketball, swimming, track, gymnastics teams all have successes

Ideally, one of the things expected to be taught by participation in sports is fairness. However, it would be difficult to ascribe that trait to the NCAA Men's Basketball Selection Committee and, particularly, to its chairman, David Tranghese. Tranghese, a former sports information director at Providence (which, by the way, made the NCAA basketball tournament field), has self-promoted himself to commissioner of the Big East Conference. NCAA committee assignments are often poor, and Tranghese proved himself to be an example of an unqualified appointment as he chaired this year's NCAA Basketball Tournament selections.

Alabama had five victories against teams selected to participate in the NCAA Tournament. The aforementioned Providence had one victory over an NCAA Tournament participant.

One of Alabama's victories was over Georgia. Georgia was selected to play in the tournament, Tranghese explained, because the Bulldogs played the nation's most difficult schedules. Never mind that Georgia, 17-14 at the time of its selection, won precious few of those games (and one of their big wins came over a Florida team decimated by injuries at the time). One almost felt that when Georgia was eliminated in the first round of the tournament that the Bulldogs would be awarded a second chance because of another "quality loss." (The Bulldogs had tuned up for first-round losing by having been ousted from the Southeastern Conference Tournament at the hands of the league's weakest team, LSU.)

Alabama also had seven losses to NCAA Tournament teams. However, Alabama's 12 games against NCAA Tournament selections were ignored by Tranghese, who took careful pains to point to Bama as a team not worthy of selection by his committee, the Tide merely attempting to hide behind its schedule. Curiously, Tranghese did say the SEC was the nation's strongest conference.



Mark Gottfried

There is no doubt that Alabama played a very weak non-conference schedule. That's a decision that Head Coach Mark Gottfried made as he started a team of five sophomores with two of its top substitutes being true freshmen. Gottfried probably never expected Tranghese and his committee to completely ignore the Tide's SEC schedule (including double-digit victories over Sweet 16 participants Ole Miss and Kentucky) and Bama's lengthy appearance in the top 25 polls of both NCAA coaches and sportswriters and broadcasters.

In any other year Alabama would have been selected for the NCAA Tournament. Indeed, if the committee had followed its own guidelines of strength of schedule and power rating, Bama would have been in. This year the Crimson Tide was the poster child as the Selection Committee made its statement regarding strength of schedule.

Unfairness notwithstanding, the Crimson Tide men's basketball team was forced to play the hand dealt it. That hand was the National Invitation Tournament. There's no doubt the NIT has lost prestige from its beginnings, when it was considered more important than the NCAA Tournament. Still, it is not without some importance for a young basketball team. More games and practice, tournament pressure, and additional publicity (even though not what an NCAA participant gets) are beneficial.

When The University of Alabama had its spring break beginning with the end of classes on March 23, Crimson Tide men's basketball players and coaches were a couple of hours away from determining their destination. It would be New York.

Alabama was a decided underdog to make it to Madison Square Garden, where the semifinals and finals of the NIT are played. The NIT gave Bama a tough test to make its final four teams by sending the Tide to West LaFayette, Indiana, for its quarterfinals game against Purdue. Purdue had crushed Auburn in its previous outing and most considered the Boilermakers the class of the NIT field. Purdue had lost two of its best players in the middle of the season and slumped out of NCAA consideration, but the Boilermakers were at full strength for the NIT.

Alabama has been one of the nation's poorest road teams for the past two years. Indeed, the Tide had only one win on another team's home court in that time, a victory over SEC weak sister, LSU, this year. And when the Tide fell behind by 11 points in the second half at Purdue, no one would have been surprised to see Alabama suffer another road blowout loss.

But a funny thing happened on the way to Broadway. Alabama fought back. In a most exciting comeback, Alabama got a career-high 24 points from Kenny Walker and 20 points and 16 rebounds from Erwin Dudley and defeated Purdue, 85-77, in double overtime.

Purdue Coach Gene Keady, gracious in defeat, noticed something the NCAA Selection Committee did not. Keady said, "The Selection Committee really made a statement about non-conference schedule by leaving them out, because that is a team that belongs in the (NCAA) Tournament."

It will be of no little benefit to Alabama's returning players to have turned in that big road victory against the Boilermakers.

The win improved the Tide's record to 24-10 with two games to play. Detroit (Alabama's semifinals opponent), Tulsa and Memphis were other NIT tourists in New York.

Alabama had moved into the quarterfinals with two NIT victories in Coleman Coliseum. The Tide survived a late run from Seton Hall to post an 85-79 win, then played a very good game in downing underrated Toledo, 79-69.

Gottfried, coaching the last SEC team still



standing in post-season play, said after his team's win over Purdue, "Obviously we wanted to play in the NCAA Tournament. I'm not going to say we didn't. But maybe in a different kind of way, this win—these three wins—will do more for us than going to the (NCAA) Tournament would have."

And even though Alabama is not in the NCAA Tournament, and would have had virtually no chance of winning the NCAA championship, the team that wins the NIT title ranks with the NCAA winner in finishing the season with the nation's longest winning streak.

This was to be Bama's fifth appearance in the NIT semifinals in Madison Square Garden.

**W**hile the men's season headed to a satisfactory conclusion, the women's team of Coach Rick Moody achieved only moderate success. That was in great part because of separation, namely the separation that twice occurred in the shoulder of star guard Shondra Johnson.

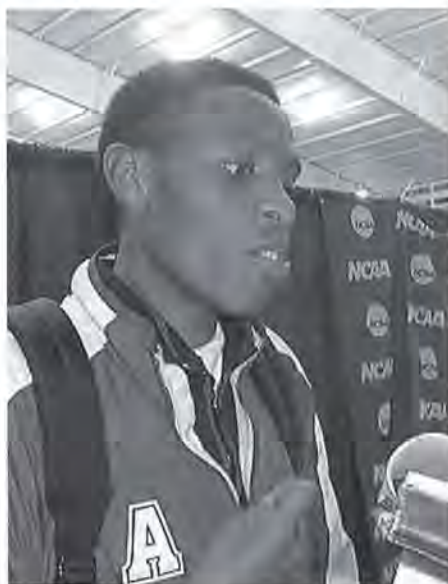
Even at full strength, Bama was unable to compete with the cream of the SEC crop, the likes of Tennessee and Georgia. For the year, the Tide ended up 19-12 overall, only 5-9 in SEC play. The one positive for the season was that Alabama was able to beat its in-state rival, Auburn...three times. Bama beat the Tigers in Tuscaloosa, in Auburn and in the first round of the SEC Tournament.

The Tide was invited to the Women's NIT, but it was no surprise that the Tide had a short stay. After something of an upset, a 10-point win over Memphis, Alabama's exotic tournament travel was about 60 miles, to face its sister institution, Alabama-Birmingham. Alabama played well enough for most of that second round game, including having the lead and the ball with about three minutes to play. But the Tide went cold from the field, UAB shot a bushel basket of free throws, and Bama's season was over.

**D**avid Kimani did all he could to help lead the Alabama men's track and field team to a national title, winning the 3,000-meter and 5,000-meter runs, but the Tide came up just short, finishing fourth overall in the NCAA Indoor Championships.

Kimani posted an 8:03.29 in winning the 3,000 while successfully defending his national title in the event. The day before Kimani defended his national title in the 5,000 running a 13:42.32.

The Crimson Tide of Coach Harvey Glance scored 31 points as a team while fin-



David Kimani  
Eric Stinnett Photo

ishing in fourth place, only three points behind national champion LSU. The fourth place finish is the best showing for any Alabama men's track team in the history of the NCAA Indoor Championships. Bama had twice finished fifth, once in 2000 and the other time in 1978.

"We were happy to be in a position to win the meet after the first day," said Glance. "Our goal going into the meet was to come back with some hardware and we did that. There are 265 other teams that would love to trade places with us I'm sure. I'm extremely proud of what our team accomplished and can't say enough for these guys."

Bama had only three competitors. In addition to Kimani, Ron Bramlett finished in second in the 60-meter hurdles and Miguel Pate placed sixth in the long jump.

On the down side for the Tide, in an effort to win the 60m hurdles, Bramlett, while leaning forward at the finish line, tripped on the incline and fell and broke his clavicle. He is expected to be out 4-6 weeks.

With his victories, Kimani joins Jan Johnson (1972, pole vault), Gary England (1977, shot put), Ike Levine, Darrell Gaston, Joe Coombs and Tony Husbands (1978, mile relay), William Wuyke (1984, 1,000-meter), Keith Talley (1987 55-meter hurdles) and Andrew Owusu (1996, long jump) as the only Crimson Tide athletes to win in the NCAA Indoor National Championship.

**O**n the strength of gutsy relay swimming and a pair of championship finals performances by rookie sensa-

tion Anne Poleska, the Alabama women's swimming and diving team scored 69 points at the NCAA Championships in East Meadow, New York, at the Nassau Aquatic Center, to finish 16th in the nation. It marked Alabama's first top-20 finish since 1996, when the Tide took 13th. Georgia won the championship by a narrow 1.5 point margin over Stanford. In all the SEC placed six teams in the top-20.

Poleska finished third in the 200 breaststroke and sixth in the 100 breaststroke. Poleska also swam as part of the Tide's 12th place freestyle relay. She along with senior Kelly Coellner, freshman Lisa Andersson and junior Marcy Warriner swam to a school record finish of 3:21.28, bettering the mark set just a month earlier at the SEC Championships.

Alabama sent a two man contingent to the NCAA Men's Swimming and Diving Championships at Texas A&M. Senior Nic Stoel and freshman Jordie Proffitt were both among the collegiate rank's fastest swimmers. Stoel took 22nd in the 200 breaststroke and 32nd in the 100 breaststroke. Proffitt swam the 100 backstroke and the 200 individual medley, finishing 26th in both, and the 200 butterfly, where he finished 32nd.

The men's meet was a homecoming for Alabama Coach Don Wagner, who was head coach of the Texas A&M women for four years before becoming Alabama's head men's and women's coach prior to the 2000 season.

**A**labama was good at the SEC Gymnastics Championships, but the nationally third-ranked Crimson Tide ran into a second-ranked Georgia squad at the top of its game. Georgia won the meet with a 198 to Alabama's 197.425. However, in gymnastics the conference meet has little consequence. National championship season is now approaching (see Page 20).

"We were good," Alabama Coach Sarah Patterson said of the SEC meet. "Georgia was spectacular. It was just one of those nights. We scored within a tenth of our season best, so we can't be disappointed."

Junior Andree Pickens became the first athlete to repeat as SEC Gymnast of the Year, when she was awarded that honor in a post-meet ceremony. Pickens, senior Lissy Smith, junior Natalie Barrington, sophomore Kristin Sterner and freshman Jeana Rice earned All-SEC honors.

Rice led the Crimson Tide in the all-around, posting a career high 39.525, good for second place. Pickens was fourth with a 39.500 and Sterner was fifth with a 39.475.



# Alabama Looks For Inside Help

by Kirk McNair

Tide may need to find another big man in late recruiting period which begins April 11

Those who follow college recruiting often think of football, where there are day-to-day revelations of non-binding commitments prior to Signing Day, with that actual day of true commitment, the first Wednesday in February. And almost without exception, high school senior football stars sign their papers and FAX them back to the schools on that Signing Day.

In basketball (and other winter and spring sports), there is an early signing period in November in which a large number of prospects are signed by colleges. That is a week-long window, and few of the signings in men's basketball take place on the first day possible.

Then comes the spring signing period, which is for sports other than football and soccer (another fall sport). It begins April 11. Don't look for a large number of men's signees on that first day. Men's basketball signings typically will be drawn out, some extending far past the signing deadline and consummated when the athletes enter school in the fall.

The Crimson Tide men's basketball team of Coach Mark Gottfried has already had good success in recruiting this year. A team that started five sophomores and included among its top substitutes two freshmen is nevertheless looking for help. Bama lost one senior before the season really got started as Jeremy Hays elected to give up basketball with recurring leg problems. At the end of this season Bama loses point guard Tarik London, wing guard Doc Martin, inside man Alfred Moss, and walk-on guard Jim Bakken. (Incidentally, Hays and Moss have already earned degrees and the other three graduate this spring, which is exceptional.)

In the early signing period Alabama added two all-star high school guards and a junior college transfer forward. The prep

stars are point guard Maurice "Mo" Williams, 6-1, 180, of Murrah High School in Jackson, Mississippi, and wing guard Earnest Shelton, 6-3, 190, of White Station High School in Memphis, Tennessee. Williams was selected a McDonald's All-America while Shelton was a finalist for the team.

The forward signee was Kei Madison, 6-9, 225, of Columbiana in Shelby County. Madison has been out of high school for several years, first attending prep school. He signed with Indiana, but was not academically eligible. He went to Iowa Western Junior College and played there in 2000. He left Iowa Western after last season and transferred to Southern Union Junior College in Wadley. He was not playing basketball this season, reportedly concentrating on his academics. Graduation from junior college would leave him three years of college eligibility.

However, there were problems for Madison this year. Although reports surfaced that he had dropped out of Southern Union and would not be eligible next year, there is information that Madison is continuing his education. Nevertheless, he is considered a bit of a long shot for eligibility.

Thus, Alabama, which had been expected to attempt to sign two big men in the late signing period, may now attempt to sign as many as three new inside players this spring. Here is a look at some of those who may be on Bama men's basketball's spring wish list.

Very close to home, Rodney Bias, a 6-9, 225-pound power forward has emerged as one of the nation's top prospects. Bias, who is originally from Aliceville, had eye-popping statistics, particularly as a rebounder, for Shelton State Community College in Tuscaloosa this year. Bias averaged 20

points and 17 rebounds (he had one game in which he pulled down 32 rebounds) in leading the Bucs to a 20-2 regular season record. While Bias has decent grades at Shelton State, there is a question whether he will have enough hours to graduate.

The most discussed junior college prospect for Alabama is Moustapha Diagne, a 7-0, 230-pound center at Trinity Valley in Athens, Texas. Diagne, who is from Africa, averaged 14.8 points and 8.2 rebounds per game this year as he hit 63.9 per cent of his field goals. Alabama's top competition had been expected to be New Mexico and Cincinnati. However, he is also considering Mississippi State and Louisville.

The Louisville situation in which high-profile Rick Pitino has taken over as head coach could be a factor in Crimson Tide spring recruiting. One highly-regarded prospect who has been considering Bama is Ballard High School star Brandon Bender of Louisville. The 6-10, 240-pounder, who averaged 15 points and eight rebounds per game, has had both Alabama and Louisville at the top of his wish list.

Alabama has been considered a longshot for 6-9, 190-pound forward DeMarshay Johnson of Oakland, California. Johnson, who averaged 16 points and 11 rebounds, also has Louisville on his very long list of possibilities.

However, the Tide might be in contention for Jasper Johnson, a 6-7, 235-pound power forward from Hollandale, Mississippi. Johnson, who averaged 28 points and 12 rebounds per game, is also considering Georgia, LSU and Ole Miss.

Alabama has also been listed with junior college centers Ermal Kuqo (6-10, 270, 15 points, 8 rebounds) of Seminole State in Oklahoma and Pervis Pasco (6-9, 230) of Pensacola in Florida.



# Learn From Alabama's Coaches

by Donna Fromme

The University offers camps in most sports

University of Alabama coaches offer summer sports camps in many sports. In most cases there are day and overnight camp options. Overnight campers stay in University facilities and dine in school cafeterias. And each one is a hands-on camp with not only the head coaches playing active roles, but the assistants and in many cases Alabama's athletes working as instructors and counselors.

Following is a list of Camps that will be on campus this summer.

### Baseball

Jim Wells and his staff have made the Crimson Tide a regular in the NCAA tournament with World Series stops along the way to making it a first name in college baseball. And that successful group can teach what it takes to be a winner. Camps offered are:

Day camp for first through seventh graders, June 25-28, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., \$200. Accelerated camp for ages 10 and up, July 9-13, resident \$340, commuter \$275. Advanced camp for ninth-12th graders, July 16-20, resident \$415, commuter \$350.

Log on to [www.bamabaseball.com](http://www.bamabaseball.com) for more camp information or call (205) 348-2427 or write: Bama Baseball Camp, Inc., P.O. Box 870393, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487 for more information or an application or camp brochure.

### Basketball

For boys, the Mark Gottfried Basketball Camp includes instruction from Alabama's head coach and his assistants, as well as former Crimson Tide and current NBA players and some of the top high school coaches in the Southeast.

Once again, there will be a Parent-Child Camp on June 15-16. It's \$195 for boarding, \$180 for non-boarding.

Other camps are:

Individual camp is June 17-21, with a cost of \$295 for boarding, \$245 non-boarding. Day camp is June 18-21 at a cost of \$115.



Jim Wells

And shooting camp is June 22 at a cost of \$55.

For more information, call (205) 348-4551, or, for a brochure or application, write: Bama Hoops Basketball Camp, Inc., P.O. Box 870393, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487 or fax your request to (205) 348-7417.

For girls, there is the Lady Tide Basketball Camp, led by Tide Head Coach Rick Moody. There are a total of four camps. They are:

Team camp is June 6-8 at a cost per player of \$135 for overnight, \$90 commuting. Day camp June 9 costs \$25. The elite camp is June 10-12 at a cost of \$200 for overnight and \$150 for day campers. (Those registering for overnight in the elite camp will be charged only \$185 if registered by May 1.) The skills camp is June 13-15 with overnight costing \$215, day campers \$155.

For an application or more information, call (205) 348-7077 or write: Lady Tide Basketball Camp, c/o Coach Cassandra Mooror, P.O. Box 870393, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487.

### Football

Campers will meet new Crimson Tide Head Coach Dennis Franchione and his staff as they hold their first Alabama Football Camp. Campers enjoy use of the same football facilities that have made Bama one of nation's great teams.

The cost is \$275 for overnight campers and \$225 for Day campers. Mini Camps

(11th and 12th graders) are \$30 per camper and include an in-depth look at Alabama from an academic standpoint followed by lunch and a half-day of instruction combined with an NFL combine-type workout.

Session I is June 3-6 for grades nine through 12 with skill camp and line camp. Session II is June 6-9, grades two through 12 with skill camp, line camp, and junior camp for grades two through six. The first mini-camp will be June 16 and the second July 13.

For more information, call (205) 348-0808 and write, for an application or brochure, to The Alabama Football Camp, P.O. Box 870323, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0323.

### Golf

The Crimson Tide Golf Academy is available for boys and girls and headed up by Bama Head Coaches Dick Spybey and Betty Palmer. The camp will be held at an outstanding new facility, the Capstone Club.

The first camp will be for boys age 13-17 June 10-16. The second camp will be for boys age 10-12 June 17-21. Camp three will be for girls age 10-17 June 24-28.

For a brochure or an application for the camp, call: (205) 348-0383 or write to: Crimson Tide Golf Academy, 1655 McFarland Blvd., Suite 116, Tuscaloosa, AL 35406

### Gymnastics

Three national gymnastics championships and dozens of All-Americans are among the success stories Tide Coaches Sarah and David Patterson have produced, making them ideal leaders for future stars attending the Alabama Gymnastics Camp, which will be June 10-14.

Overnight (resident) campers must be age nine or older. Non-resident (day campers) must be age seven or older. Resident cost is \$475, non-resident \$325.

For more information, call (205) 348-4578 or for an application or brochure write: Alabama Gymnastics Camp, P.O. Box 860253, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487.

### Soccer

Intensive instruction combined with a lot of fun is the goal of Don Staley's Bama Soccer Camp. The two-time Southeastern Conference Coach of the Year and two-time big South Coach of the Year has been highly-successful in coaching both men's and



women's soccer, coaching 40 all-conference players including an Olympian and U.S. National team member and two professional men's players.

Soccer camps are:

Pee-Wee camp for age 4-6, 8 a.m.-noon, June 25-29, \$85; Junior camp, age 7-10, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., June 25-29, \$150; boys and girls all-star camp, age 11 and up, 8 a.m.-8 p.m., June 25-29, \$265; girls boarding camp, age 13 and up, June 24-29, \$385.

Call (205) 348-0143 or 348-0144 or write: Bama Soccer Camp, c/o Don Staley, P.O. Box 870393, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0393.

#### Softball

The Patrick Murphy Softball School, headed up by the Alabama coach who took his team all the way to the College World Series in 2000 and has the Crimson Tide ranked among the nation's top teams again this year, includes instruction by the Bama staff.

Cost is \$325 for overnight and \$260 for day campers. Session I for girls entering ninth grade through 12th grade is June 4-7; Session II is for girls 10 through entering eighth grade.

For more information, call Tide Assistant Coach Vann Stuedeman at (205) 348-4400 or email her at [vstuedeman@ia.ua.edu](mailto:vstuedeman@ia.ua.edu) or write: Patrick Murphy Softball School, P.O. Box 860393, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487.

#### Swimming

The Bama Swim Camp this year will feature four-time Olympic Gold Medalist Janet Evans, who will speak to campers about her experiences as a world-class athlete. The camp is headed by Tide Head Men's and Women's Coach Don Wagner.

There are four sessions this year: June 10-15, June 17-22, June 24-29, and July 1-6.

For information, call (205) 348-0977 or write: Bama Swim Camp, P.O. Box 861453, Tuscaloosa, AL 35486 or email [bamaswim-camp@yahoo.com](mailto:bamaswim-camp@yahoo.com).

#### Tennis

Men's Coach Adam Steinberg and Women's Coach Jenny Mainz co-host the Crimson Tide Tennis Camp for boys and girls. All skill levels are welcome with campers grouped according to skill level from beginner to competitive.

The camps are for those age 8 to 18. Cost is \$285 for resident campers, \$235 for day campers. Session I is June 10-14 and Session II June 17-21.

For more information, call (205) 348-3840, or write to the Crimson Tide Tennis Camp, P.O. Box 870393, Tuscaloosa, AL 35486.



Judy Green

#### Track & Field

Alabama is home for the Southeast Elite Track & Field Camp and the Southeast Elite Vault Camp. The staff includes three-time Olympian and 1976 Gold Medal winner Harvey Glange, Alabama's head men's track and field coach, as well as Bama staff members Field Events Coach Rod Tiffin who has coached two national champions and 26 All-Americans, and Distance Coach Joe Walker who has coached three NCAA champions and 74 All-Americans.

The Southeast Elite Track and Field Camp will be June 10-13. Cost is \$279 for a resident camper, but a group rate (four or more mailed together) is available at \$259 per camper. The Southeast Elite Vault Camp is June 4-7 at a cost of \$350 resident, \$250 commuter and \$250 for coaches.

For more information, call (205) 348-5151 or write: Southeast Elite Vault/or Track & Field Camp, Alabama Track & Field Office, Box 870393, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487 or email Coach Tiffin at [rtiffin@ia.ua.edu](mailto:rtiffin@ia.ua.edu)

#### Volleyball

Judy Green, the 1993 National Coach of the Year, heads the staff of the Judy Green Volleyball Camp. Camps are:

Individual skills, July 15-18, age 8 through graduated high school senior, \$275; setter's camp, July 20-21, age 8 through graduated high school senior, \$200; and high school teams camp, July 29-August 1, \$260.

For more information, call (205) 348-9701 or for a brochure/application write: Judy Green Volleyball Camp, Inc., Box 870393, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487.



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# BAMA SCORECARD

## Franchione Signed

New Alabama Football Coach Dennis Franchione's contract is signed, sealed and delivered. The seven-year contract, which will pay him a minimum of \$1.1 million per year, was signed March 2 by University President Dr. Andrew Sorensen, Athletics Director Mal Moore and Franchione.

"I'm happy to have this finished," Franchione said. "It took awhile for the contract to make all the stops with all the parties involved, but it is done." In addition to Franchione's agent, Craig Kelly of Columbia, South Carolina, and University Attorney Sandy Gordon taking a while to work out the details, because of the length and amount of the contract it had to be approved by the compensation committee of The University Board of Trustees.

Although a few newspaper columnists and radio talk show hosts attempted to make an issue of the three-month time frame for working out the contract, Franchione said, "There were no sticking points." He said the contract was essentially the paper version of what he and Moore agreed upon and shook hands upon when Franchione was hired December 1.

The coach said, "I have said all along that I was happy and excited to be here and I meant it. It is now official."

Moore said, "We are very pleased to have this done. I feel that we are in good hands with Coach Fran and there are great days ahead."

## Gottfried Close

Athletics Director Mal Moore also confirmed that he and Head Men's Basketball Coach Mark Gottfried have a handshake agreement on a new contract for Gottfried. Although Gottfried still has some time left on his original pact, both sides wanted to ink the coach to a new agreement. Details of the new contract will not be made public until it is finalized, but a source close to Gottfried said it would move Bama's coach well up the ranks of the highest-paid coaches.

## Surgery Successful

Athletics Director Mal Moore said he is having to make some changes in his lifestyle regarding food and exercise, but otherwise is doing well after he underwent an angioplasty procedure. After it was determined Moore had a 100 per cent blockage in a heart artery, Dr. William Hill performed the procedure at DCH Medical Center on the 61-year-old Moore.

Dr. Jimmy Robinson, Alabama's team physician who was also involved, said the procedure went well with the left anterior descending artery clearing quickly. A stent was inserted, the procedure well known to the public since it is the same procedure Vice President Cheney had in November. The stent in the Vice President later failed and there is a chance, even a likelihood, that Moore will have to have subsequent work, Robinson said. However, he said Moore had a good heartbeat and no indications there had been any heart damage.

Moore said he had not felt well one afternoon, then awoke early the next morning with chest pains. He drove himself to the hospital.

After a couple of days of hospitalization for observation, Moore was released and has returned to work.

## Football Leaders

Alabama Head Football Coach Dennis Franchione has interesting and effective concepts about running a team. One of those, he explained, is "To help create the ultimate team atmosphere, we believe in giving ownership and accountability to players. It is their team. So we have them elect a leadership council with a player, sometimes more (if the vote is close), from each position and one to represent walk-ons. They become the 'voice' for their respective groups. This is not a policy-making group, but it has strong input into decisions affecting the squad."

"The players voted on their first council, which will be in effect until the end of spring practice. Then, after they have played together with our staff for the first time, they will vote again for the 2001 season. It is the highest honor within the team other than permanent captains, who are elected after the season. During the season, the game captains come from the council."

The first, preliminary leadership council:

Offensive lineman Dante Ellington; tight end Terry Jones; quarterbacks Andrew Zow, Tyler Watts and Jonathan Richey (a walk-on); running back Ahmaad Galloway; wide receiver Jason McAddley; place-kicker Neal Thomas; defensive linemen Kindal Moorehead and Jarret Johnson; linebackers Victor Ellis and Saleem Rasheed; cornerback Gerald Dixon; and safeties Reggie Myles and Shontua Ray.

## Ken Donahue

Former Alabama Assistant Football Coach Ken Donahue, 76, died March 21 after collapsing during a workout at a gym in his hometown of Corryton, Tennessee.

Donahue, who spent 21 seasons on the Alabama staff, returned to Tennessee in 1985 and worked there until his retirement from college football in 1988.

He joined the Alabama staff in 1964 after a three-year stint at Mississippi State. During his tenure, it was Donahue's defense that helped the Crimson Tide to five national championships and 12 Southeastern Conference titles. He was known around the SEC for his tireless work ethic and was named "Working Coach of the Year" in 1975, the same year the Tide yielded just 94.3 rushing yards per game. Alabama allowed just 66 points in 11 games that year. He earned that honor again in 1985 while coaching at Tennessee. That same year, he was honored by *The Football News* as the nation's best assistant coach.

While defensive coordinator, his Alabama teams led the SEC in fewest yards allowed seven times; in rushing defense nine times and in pass defense three times.

A 1950 Tennessee graduate, he played under General Robert Neyland and was a member of the 1950 Volunteers' Cotton Bowl team. He served as line coach at Memphis State from 1951-55 and then returned to Tennessee

through the 1960 season. He served at Mississippi State for three seasons before Coach Paul Bryant hired him at Alabama in 1964.

## Basketball Honors

Alabama basketball teammates and roommates Rod Grizzard and Erwin Dudley have been sharing headlines as the Southeastern Conference's scoring and rebounding leaders all season, accomplishments duly noted by the league's 12 head coaches.

Grizzard, a sophomore guard from Birmingham, was voted to the All-SEC first team. Dudley, a sophomore from Uniontown, was named to the All-SEC Second Team.

Alabama's Gerald Wallace was voted to the coaches' Freshman All-SEC Team. He's the fifth Alabama player to make the all-freshman team since it was established in 1987 and Alabama's first since Antonio McDyess, a 2000 Olympic Team Member and 2001 NBA All-Star, did it as an Alabama freshman in 1994.

## Academic Success

When Mark Gottfried was hired in March 1998, he promised to bring academics to the forefront of the Alabama men's basketball program, vowing to instill in his men the importance and the power of a college education.

Gottfried has delivered on that promise. Alabama had a school record five players, three of them starters, named to the 2001 SEC Men's Basketball Academic Honor Roll. The Crimson Tide led the league with that number.

Winning the award, which requires a sophomore or above academic standing and a grade point average of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale, were senior guard Jim Bakken, a public relations major who has been volunteering as a student assistant in the Alabama Athletic Media Relations office in addition to playing basketball; senior guard Tarik London, a criminal justice major who was a 22-game starter for the Tide this season; sophomore guard Terrance Meade, a business major and starter for the Tide in all but one game he's played in two seasons at Alabama; and Travis Stinnett, a starting guard who is making his second straight appearance on the academic award list. Jeremy Hays was also named to the list as the award is based on grades from the 1999-2000 academic year. Hays played for the Tide through December when the pain from a benign tumor in his leg forced him to retire.

In May, Gottfried will deliver on yet another promise. Of his senior class of five, all five will have graduated. Hays was a May 2000 graduate in management. Alfred Moss graduated in August 2000 in communications and has been working toward a second degree while he finished up his playing eligibility. And the three other seniors, London, Bakken and Doc Martin will graduate from the University of Alabama in May.

Among the men who played at Alabama who are past Academic All-SEC award winners is Gottfried, who did it his senior season in 1987.

## Pro Day

Each January a number of college football



fans become infatuated with the 40-yard dash times of senior high school football prospects. Once upon a time the 4.5 time was as good as it gets. Now a large number of skill position players, and even linebackers, report themselves as being 4.5-second men...or even better.

National Football League scouts pay no attention to the announced 40-yard dash times of college players. They know that the fastest time ever by a football player trying to make it to the NFL is the 4.34 mark recorded by Deion Sanders.

Each year a handful of NFL scouts make their way around the nation to various college campuses to see for themselves what potential draftees can do in various skill categories. The scouts (including former Tide star John Mitchell, now with the Pittsburgh Steelers) were in Tuscaloosa recently to look at past Tide players. Here are the 40-yard dash times of those players working out at Alabama's "Pro Day:"

Kecalf Bailey 4.63, Tony Dixon 4.55, Shawn Draper 5.17, Milo Lewis 4.69, Dustin McClintock 5.32, former track star Jeremy Taylor 4.53, Griff Redmill 5.36, Arvin Richard 4.83, Kenny Smith 5.13, Marcus Spencer 4.73, Todd Whitmore 5.2, Paul Hogan 5.33, and Kelvin Sigler 4.75.

The bench press is one of the standard exercises performed by football players everywhere. But contrary to how most lifters work, the NFL concerns itself more with repetitions than maximum weight. Using a 225-pound load, the athlete gets in as many reps possible before he becomes exhausted, signaling the spotter it's time to pull the bar back to its perch.

Most fans would think in terms of a maximum weight, with 400 pounds being a standard for most athletes. But there is a sliding scale whereby repetitions can translate to total weight. For instance, 25 or more repetitions generally indicates 400 pounds plus and so on.

As the athlete pushes up the weight, the NFL scouts are counting. And reps in which the lifter doesn't lockout his elbows and/or does not keep his butt on the bench are not allowed.

There are a lot of factors considered in evaluating an athlete's strength. But generally, to make a scout sit up and take notice, a lineman should be in the 25-plus range, linebackers, tight ends and fullbacks need 20-plus, and skill players (receivers, defensive backs, small tailbacks, quarterbacks) would fall below that.

Here are the number of repetitions with a 225-pound weight of former Tide players:

Kecalf Bailey 8, Shaun Bohanon 0, Marcus Spencer 12, Dustin McClintock 11, Milo Lewis 13, Jeremy Taylor 16, Paul Hogan 27 (but only 17 were allowed owing to form deficiency), Griff Redmill 25, Tony Dixon 17, Arvin Richard 15, Todd Whitmore 21, Will Cuthbert 22, Kenny Smith 27, and Shawn Draper 18.

#### Wells' Milestones

When Alabama's baseball team defeated Louisiana Tech 13-1 on March 7, it marked the 300th Alabama coaching victory for Head Coach Jim Wells, who had compiled a 300-119 (.716) ledger with the Crimson Tide at that point. No later than early April he is expected to notch his 500th career victory as a college head baseball coach.

#### Tide Has Won A Ton

On March 4, Alabama defeated Winthrop, 12-0, in the first game of a baseball double-

header. The win was the Crimson Tide's 2,000th all-time college baseball victory, making Alabama only the 17th team in NCAA history to win that many games. Alabama is also the only SEC team to reach the 2,000-win plateau. Alabama's all-time record at the time of the historic victory was 2,000-1,171-23 (.630) since 1892. It didn't take long to get 2,001 as the Tide also won the second game of the doubleheader.

#### It Was Bound To Happen

No one seriously expected Alabama's softball team to go undefeated this year, but it took a long time before Coach Pat Murphy's squad finally lost. The Crimson Tide lost the second game of a doubleheader to Tennessee in Knoxville on March 24. It was Bama's 28th game of the year. The Crimson Tide has been

a fixture among the nation's top four teams for the past month as Bama built a 28-1 record and 8-1 Mark in SEC games.

Shelley Laird pitched two victories against the Vols, her 14th and 15th wins of the year and 70th and 71st of her career, moving her into second place in the all-time list of SEC softball winners. Eight of Laird's wins this year have been shutouts. As a junior All-America she had 11 shutouts.

Alabama's pitching staff felt particularly challenged when hosting Arkansas in a three-game series in mid-March. The Razorbacks came into Tuscaloosa with a pitching staff that had the best earned run average in the conference. The Bama staff answered that challenge by pitching three shutouts against the Hogs. Laird had two of those shutout victories and was named SEC Pitcher of the Week.

## 2001 Alabama Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Site	Series Record
Sept. 1	UCLA	Tuscaloosa	Tied, 1-1
Sept. 8	Vanderbilt	Nashville	Alabama leads, 56-19-4
Sept. 15	Southern Miss	Birmingham	Alabama leads, 29-6-2
Sept. 22	Arkansas	Tuscaloosa	Alabama leads, 7-4-0
Sept. 29	South Carolina	Columbia	Alabama leads, 10-0-0
Oct. 6	Texas-El Paso	Birmingham	First Meeting
Oct. 13	Mississippi	Oxford	Alabama leads, 39-7-2
Oct. 20	Tennessee	Tuscaloosa	Alabama leads, 42-34-7
Nov. 3	LSU	Tuscaloosa	Alabama leads, 42-17-5
Nov. 10	Mississippi State	Tuscaloosa	Alabama leads, 67-15-3
Nov. 17	Auburn	Auburn	Alabama leads, 37-27-1
	Southeastern Conference Championship Game		
Dec. 1	TBA	Atlanta	Alabama has 2-3 record

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# 2001 Alabama Spring Sports Schedules

Date/ UA	Opponent	Time/ Opp.
10	Oklahoma	8
5	Oklahoma	0
6	Oklahoma	5
3	Nicholls State	5
12	Nicholls State	2
13	Miami (Ohio)	2
2	Miami (Ohio)	1
7	Miami (Ohio)	1
6	South Alabama	5
1	@ UCF	5
2	@ UCF	5
3	@ UCF	4
11	Austin Peay	7
12-11	Winthrop	0-5
13	Louisiana Tech	1
4	Vanderbilt	12
16	Vanderbilt	4
6	Vanderbilt (10 inn.)	7
3	@ Kentucky	1
15	@ Kentucky	1
26	@ Kentucky	7
9	B'ham Southern	1
3	@ Ole Miss	6
8	@ Ole Miss	7
9	@ Ole Miss	11
Mar. 27	@ Louisiana Tech	7:00
Mar. 28	@ Northwest St.	7:00
Mar. 30	South Carolina	7:00
Mar. 31	South Carolina	3:15
Apr. 1	South Carolina	1:00
Apr. 3	Jacksonville St.	7:00
Apr. 4	Southern Miss	7:00
Apr. 6	Georgia	7:00
Apr. 7	Georgia	4:00
Apr. 8	Georgia	2:00
Apr. 10	UAB	7:00
Apr. 11	@ UAB	7:00
Apr. 13	@ Tennessee	6:00
Apr. 14	@ Tennessee	1:00
Apr. 15	@ Tennessee	1:00
Apr. 1	West Alabama	7:00
Apr. 20	@ Auburn	7:00
Apr. 21	@ Auburn	3:15
Apr. 22	@ Auburn	1:30
Apr. 25	Samford	7:00
Apr. 27	LSU	7:00
Apr. 28	LSU	4:00
Apr. 29	LSU	1:00
May 4	@ Miss. State	6:30
May 5	@ Miss. State	5:00
May 6	@ Miss. State	1:30
May 11	Arkansas	7:00
May 12	Arkansas	4:00
May 13	Arkansas	1:00
May 16	SEC Tournament	
May 20	@ Hoover Met	
May 25	NCAA Regionals	
May 27	TBA	
June 1-	NCAA SuperRegionals	
June 3	TBA	
June 8-	College World Series	
June 16	@ Omaha, Nebraska	

All times central

Date/ UA	Opponent	Time/ Opp.
	Bama Bash	
6	Illinois State	0
11	Samford	3
5	Tennessee Tech	0
8	Tennessee Tech	1
6	Illinois State	2
	@ Texas A&M Classic	
7	UT-Corpus Christi	0
2	Texas A&M	1
16	UT-Corpus Christi	0
2	Penn State	1
3	Penn State	2
	NFCA Classic @ Columbus, Ga.	
7	Arizona State	6
3	Kansas	0
6	Massachusetts	3
1	Michigan	0
7	Michigan	2
	Crimson Classic	
5	Marshall	1
6	Evansville	0
2-6	Ball State (2)	0-5
11-4	@ Georgia (2)	0-2
9	@ Georgia	1
1-4	Arkansas (2)	0-0
3	Arkansas	0
9	@ Jacksonville St	0
7-4	@ Tennessee (2)	1-6
11	@ Tennessee	0
Mar. 27	@ Florida (2)	5:00
Mar. 28	@ Florida	1:00
Mar. 30	Kentucky	6:30
Mar. 31	Kentucky (2)	1:00
Apr. 3	@ UAB	7:00
Apr. 4	UAB	7:00
Apr. 7	@ LSU (2)	4:00
Apr. 8	@ LSU	1:00
Apr. 11	Chattanooga (2)	5:00
Apr. 14	Ole Miss (2)	1:00
Apr. 15	Ole Miss	1:00
Apr. 18	Auburn (2)	5:00
Apr. 19	Auburn	1:00
Apr. 21	Mississippi St (2)	1:00
Apr. 22	Mississippi State	1:00
Apr. 24	Troy @ Mont. (2)	5:00
Apr. 28	@ So. Carolina (2)	1:00
Apr. 29	@ So. Carolina	1:00
May 4	@ Albany (2)	6:00
May 10-	SEC Tournament	
May 12	@ Chattanooga, Tenn.	
May 17-	NCAA Regionals	
May 20	@ campus sites	
May 24-	College World Series	
May 28	@ Oklahoma City	

## Men's Outdoor Track

Date	Event	Result
Mar. 17	SEC Four-Way	
	@ Starkville	3 of 4
Mar. 22-	Alabama Relays	
Mar. 25		1 of 17
Apr. 7	@ Clemson Invit.	
Apr. 13	Sea Ray Relays	
Apr. 15	@ Knoxville, Tenn.	
Apr. 21	@ TCU	
Apr. 27-	Drake Relays	
Apr. 28	@ Des Moines, Iowa	
May 10-	SEC Championships	
May 13	@ Columbia, S.C.	
May 18	Georgia Tech	
	Last Chance	
May 30-	NCAA Championships	
June 2	@ Eugene, Oregon	

Date/ UA	Opponent	Time/ Opp.
7	Troy State	0
5	Southern Miss	2
7	Samford	0
7	Florida State	0
2	@ Kentucky	5
7	AUM	0
4	UAB	1
5	South Carolina State	2
4	Ole Miss	3
3	Tennessee	4
4	@ So. Carolina	3
0	@ Georgia	7
	Blue-Gray Tourney	
2	Indiana State	4
4	Harvard	0
4	Northwestern	1
6	Middle Tennessee	1
3	Vanderbilt	4
Mar. 27	@ Furman	2:30
Mar. 28	@ Clemson	1:00
Apr. 4	@ Florida	1:00
Apr. 7	LSU	1:00
Apr. 8	Arkansas	1:00
Apr. 11	Mississippi State	1:00
Apr. 14	Baylor	1:00
Apr. 15	Auburn	9:00
Apr. 19-	SEC Championships	
Apr. 22	@ Lexington	
May 21-	NCAA Championships	
May 27	@ Athens	

All times central

## Men's Golf

Date	Event	Finish
	Gator Invitational	
	@ Gainesville, Fla.	12 of 15
	Mercedes Invitational	
	@ Jacksonville, Fla.	10 of 15
	Matlock Collegiate	
	@ Lakeland, Fla.	2 of 18
	Rehling Invitational	
	@ Ol' Colony	2 of 15
Mar. 30-	Cleveland Golf Inv.	
Apr. 1	@ Augusta, Ga.	
Apr. 20-	SEC Championships	
Apr. 22	TBA	
May 10-11	Atlanta Intercollegiate	
May 17-	NCAA Regionals	
May 19	TBA	
May 30-	NCAA Championships	
June 2	@ Durham, N.C.	

## Women's Outdoor Track

Date	Event	Result
Mar. 17	SEC Four-Way	
	@ Starkville	3 of 4
Mar. 22-	Alabama Relays	
Mar. 25		2 of 17
Apr. 7	Spec Townes Relays	
	@ Athens, Ga.	
Apr. 14	Miami Invitational	
	@ Miami	
Apr. 26-	Penn Relays	
Apr. 28	@ Philadelphia	

## Women's Tennis

Date/ UA	Opponent	Time/ Opp.
7	Chattanooga	0
7	Denver	0
4	Samford	0
7	UNC-Greensboro	0
7	Troy State	0
4	@ Florida State	3
7	@ Ill.-Chicago	0
1	@ Northwestern	6
6	Mississippi State	1
2	@ LSU	5
4	@ Auburn	3
1	@ Kentucky	6
2	South Carolina	5
1	Tennessee	6
1	Florida	6
1	@ Georgia	6
Mar. 27	@ Ole Miss	2:00
Mar. 31	Vanderbilt	Noon
Apr. 1	Houston	11:00
Apr. 6	La-Monroe	2:00
Apr. 13	UAB	Noon
Apr. 15	Arkansas	Noon
Apr. 19-	SEC Championships	
Apr. 22	@ Starkville	
May 11-	NCAA Regionals	
May 13	TBA	
May 17-	NCAA Championships	
May 25	@ Stone Mountain, Ga	

All times central

## Women's Golf

Date	Event	Finish
	Florida Lady Gator	
	@ Gainesville	6 of 11
	Lady Gamecock	
	@ Columbia, SC	6 of 11
Mar. 30-	Liz Murphey Classic	
Apr. 1	@ Athens, Ga.	
Apr. 6-	LSU Invitational	
Apr. 8	@ Baton Rouge, La.	
Apr. 20-	SEC Championships	
Apr. 22	@ Gainesville, Fla.	
May 10-	NCAA Regional	
May 12	TBA	
May 24-	NCAA Championships	
May 27	@ Orlando, Fla.	



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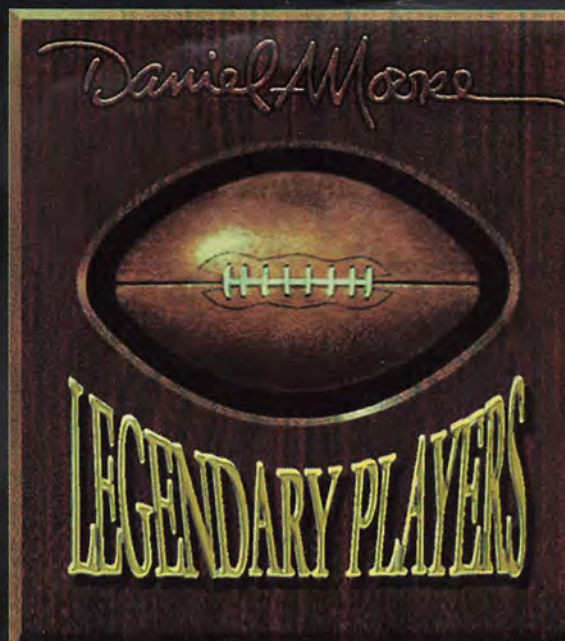
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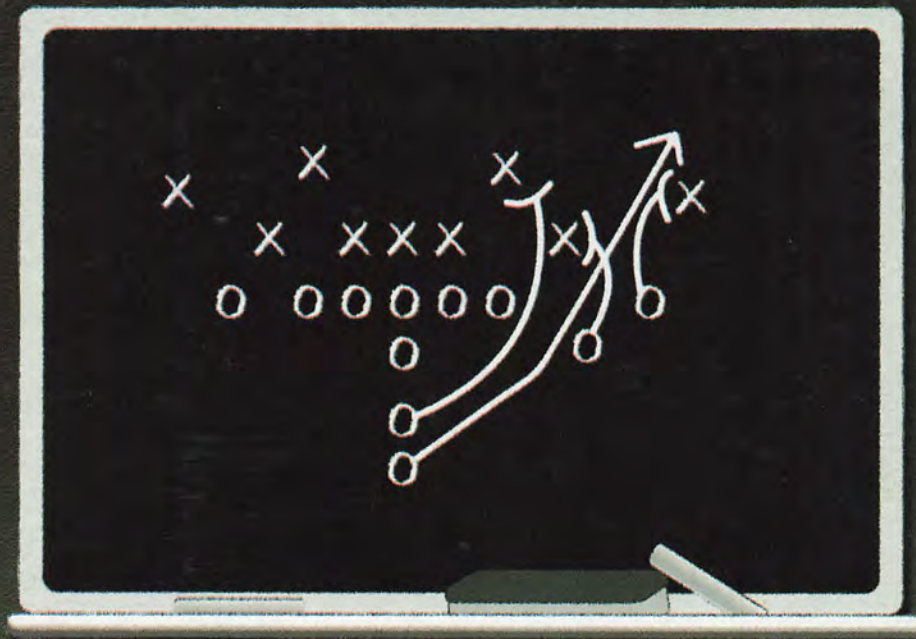
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